

# SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 25.

## A COLLECTION

OF THE

## PAPERS OF THE SANITARY COMMISSION.

SEPTEMBER 1, 1861.

NOTE.—There is no complete numbered series of documents of the Sanitary Commission. Some numbers stand for papers ordered to be prepared, but afterwards countermanded, unexpected occurrences having removed the occasion for them, and others for advertisements of a local and temporary character.

The present collection comprises all the papers of the Commission which it has been thought its members would desire to possess individually, with the following exceptions, viz :

A list of Associate Members. (No. 12; imperfect; to be reprinted.)

Directions to Army Surgeons on the Field of Battle. (No. 14; two editions.)

Rules for Preserving the Health of the Soldier. (No. 17<sup>2</sup>; two editions.)

Camp Inspection Returns. (Blanks for Inspectors, No. 19; still in type, and considered incomplete.)

General Instructions to Sanitary Inspectors. (In type and considered incomplete, though furnished with the last to Inspectors.)

FRED. LAW OLMSTED,  
*Secretary.*

OFFICE OF THE SANITARY COMMISSION,  
*Washington, September 1, 1861.*

## AN ADDRESS TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR :

SIR : The undersigned, representing three associations of the highest respectability in the city of New York, namely, the Woman's Central Association of Relief for the Sick and Wounded of the Army, the Advisory Committee of the Boards of Physicians and Surgeons of the Hospitals of New York, the New York Medical Association for furnishing Hospital Supplies in aid of the Army, beg leave to address the Department of War in behalf of the objects committed to them as a mixed delegation with due credentials.

These three associations, being engaged at home in a common object, are acting together with great efficiency and harmony to contribute towards the comfort and security of our troops, by methodizing the spontaneous benevolence of the city and State of New York; obtaining information from the public authorities of the best methods of aiding your Department with such supplies as the regulations of the Army do not provide, or the sudden and pressing necessities of the time do not permit the Department to furnish; and, in general, striving to play into the hands of the regular authorities in ways as efficient and as little embarrassing as extra-official coöperation can be.

These associations would not trouble the War Department with any call on its notice, if they were not persuaded that some positive recognition of their existence and efforts was essential to the peace and comfort of the several Bureaus of the War Department itself. The present is essentially a people's war. The hearts and minds, the bodies and souls, of the whole people and of both sexes throughout the loyal States are in it. The rush of volunteers to arms is equaled by the enthusiasm and zeal of the women of the nation,

and the clerical and medical professions vie with each other in their ardor to contribute in some manner to the success of our noble and sacred cause. The War Department will hereafter, therefore, inevitably experience, in all its bureaus the incessant and irresistible motions of this zeal, in the offer of medical aid, the applications of nurses, and the contribution of supplies. Ought not this noble and generous enthusiasm to be encouraged and utilized? Would not the Department win a still higher place in the confidence and affections of the good people of the loyal States, and find itself generally strengthened in its efforts, by accepting in some positive manner the services of the associations we represent, which are laboring to bring into system and practical shape the general zeal and benevolent activity of the women of the land in behalf of the Army? And would not a great economy of time, money, and effort be secured by fixing and regulating the relations of the Volunteer Associations to the War Department, and especially to the Medical Bureau?

Convinced by inquiries made here of the practical difficulty of reconciling the aims of their own and numerous similar associations in other cities with the regular workings of the Commissariat and the Medical Bureau, and yet fully persuaded of the importance to the country and the success of the war, of bringing such an arrangement about, the undersigned respectfully ask that a mixed Commission of civilians distinguished for their philanthropic experience and acquaintance with sanitary matters, of medical men, and of military officers, be appointed by the Government, who shall be charged with the duty of investigating the best means of methodizing and reducing to practical service the already active but undirected benevolence of the people



toward the Army ; who shall consider the general subject of the prevention of sickness and suffering among the troops, and suggest the wisest methods, which the people at large can use to manifest their good-will towards the comfort, security, and health of the Army.

It must be well known to the Department of War that several such commissions *followed* the Crimean and Indian wars. The civilization and humanity of the age and of the American people demand that such a commission should *precede* our second war of independence—more sacred than the first. We wish to prevent the evils that England and France could only investigate and deplore. This war ought to be waged in a spirit of the highest intelligence, humanity, and tenderness for the health, comfort, and safety of our brave troops. And every measure of the Government that shows its sense of this, will be eminently popular, strengthen its hands, and redound to its glory at home and abroad.

The undersigned are charged with several specific petitions, additional to that of asking for a Commission for the purposes above described, although they all would fall under the duties of that Commission.

1. They ask that the Secretary of War will order some new rigor in the inspection of volunteer troops, as they are persuaded that under the present State regulations throughout the country a great number of underaged and unsuitable persons are mustered, who are likely to swell the bills of mortality in the army to a fearful per-centage, to encumber the hospitals and embarrass the columns. They ask either for an order of reinspection of the troops already mustered, or a summary discharge of those obviously destined to succumb to the diseases of the approaching summer. It is unnecessary to argue the importance of a measure so

plainly required by common humanity and economy of life and money.

2. The committee are convinced by the testimony of the Medical Bureau itself, and the evidence of the most distinguished Army Officers, including the Commander-in-chief, Adjutant General Thomas, and the acting Surgeon General, that the cooking of the volunteer and new regiments in general is destined to be of the most crude and perilous description, and that no preventive measure could be so effectual in preserving health and keeping off disease, as an order of the Department requiring a skilled cook to be enlisted in each company of the regiments. The Woman's Central Association, in connection with the Medical Boards, are prepared to assume the duty of collecting, registering, and instructing a body of cooks, if the Department will pass such an order, accompanying it with the allotment of such wages as are equitable.

3. The committee represent that the Woman's Central Association of Relief have selected, and are selecting, out of several hundred candidates, one hundred women, suited in all respects to become nurses in the General Hospitals of the Army. These women the distinguished physicians and surgeons of the various hospitals in New York have undertaken to *educate and drill in a most thorough and laborious manner*; and the committee ask that the War Department consent to receive, on wages, these nurses, in such numbers as the exigencies of the campaign may require. It is not proposed that the nurses should advance to the seat of war, *until directly called for by the Medical Bureau here*, or that the Government should be at any expense until they are actually in service.

4. The committee ask that the Secretary of War issue an

order that in case of need the Medical Bureau may call to the aid of the regular medical force a set of volunteer dressers, composed of young medical men, drilled for this purpose by the hospital physicians and surgeons of New York, giving them such subsistence and such recognition as the rules of the service may allow under a generous construction.

It is believed that a Commission would bring these and other matters of great interest and importance to the health of the troops into the shape of easy and practical adoption. But if no Commission is appointed, the Committee pray that the Secretary will order the several suggestions made to be carried into immediate effect, if consistent with the laws of the Department, or possible without the action of Congress.

Feeling themselves directly to represent large and important constituencies, and, indirectly, a wide-spread and commanding public sentiment, the committee would most respectfully urge the immediate attention of the Secretary to the objects of their prayer.

Very respectfully,

HENRY W. BELLOWS, D. D.

W. H. VAN BUREN, M. D.

ELISHA HARRIS, M. D.

J. HARSEN, M. D.

WASHINGTON, *May* 18, 1861.



LETTER FROM THE ACTING SURGEON GENERAL TO  
THE SECRETARY OF WAR, ADVISING THE INSTI-  
TUTION OF "A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY AND AD-  
VICE IN RESPECT OF THE SANITARY INTERESTS  
OF THE UNITED STATES FORCES."

SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE,

May 22, 1861.

Hon. SIMON CAMERON, *Secretary of War*:

SIR: The sudden and large increase of the Army, more especially of the Volunteer force, has called the attention of this office to the necessity of some modifications and changes in the system of organization, as connected with the hygiene and comforts of the soldiers; more particularly in relation to the class of men who, actuated by patriotism, have repaired with unexampled promptness to the defence of the institutions and laws of the country.

The pressure upon the Medical Bureau has been very great and urgent; and though all the means at its disposal have been industriously used, and much remains to be accomplished by directing the intelligent mind of the country to practical results connected with the comforts of the soldier by preventive and sanitary means.

The Medical Bureau would, in my judgment, derive important and useful aid from the counsels and well-directed efforts of an intelligent and scientific Commission, to be styled, "A Commission of Inquiry and Advice in respect of the Sanitary Interests of the United States Forces," and acting in co-operation with the Bureau, in elaborating and applying such facts as might be elicited from the experience and more extended observation of those connected with armies, with reference to the diet and hygiene of troops, and the organization of Military Hospitals, etc.

This Commission is not intended to interfere with, but to strengthen the present organization, introducing and elaborating such improvements as the advanced stage of Medical Science might suggest; more particularly as regards the class of men who, in this war of sections, may be called to abandon the comforts of home, and be subject to the privations and casualties of war.

The views of this office were expressed in a communication of May 18, 1861, in a crude and hasty manner, as to the examination of recruits, the proposed organization of cooks, nurses, &c., to which I beg leave to refer.

The selection of this Board is of the greatest importance.

In connection with those gentlemen who originated this investigation, with many others, I would suggest the following members, not to exceed five, to convene in Washington, who have power to fill vacancies and appoint a competent Secretary :

Rev. HENRY W. BELLOWS, D. D.

Prof. ALEXANDER DALLAS BACHE, LL. D.

Prof. WOLCOTT GIBBS, M. D.

JEFFRIES WYMAN, M. D.

W. H. VAN BUREN, M. D.

It would be proper, also, to associate with this Board an officer of the Medical Staff of the Army, to be selected by the Secretary of War, familiar with the organization of Military Hospitals and the details of field service.

Respectfully submitted :

R. C. WOOD,

*Acting Surgeon General.*



DRAFT OF POWERS ASKED FROM THE GOVERNMENT  
BY SANITARY DELEGATION TO THE PRESIDENT  
AND THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *May 23, 1861.*

To the Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR :

The Medical Bureau of the United States Army having asked for the appointment of a Sanitary Commission, in aid of its own overtasked energies, the Committee of the New York Delegation to the Government on Sanitary Affairs, beg leave, at the request of the Medical Bureau, and as explanatory of its wishes, to state what precise *powers* are sought by the proposed Commission, and what specific *objects* are aimed at.

POWERS.

1. The Commission being organized for the purposes only of inquiry and advice, asks for no legal powers, but only the official recognition and moral countenance of the Government, which will be secured by its public appointment. It asks for a recommendatory order, addressed in its favor to all officers of the Government, to further its inquiries ; for permission to correspond and confer, on a confidential footing, with the Medical Bureau and the War Department, proffering such suggestions and counsel as its investigations and studies may from time to time prompt and enable it to offer.

2. The Commission seeks no pecuniary remuneration from the Government. Its motives being humane and patriotic, its labors will be its own reward. The assignment to them of a room in one of the public buildings, with stationery and other necessary conveniences, would meet their expectations in this direction.

3. The Commission asks leave to sit through the war, either in Washington, or when and where it may find it most convenient and useful; but it will disband should experience render its operations embarrassing to the Government, or less necessary and useful than it is now supposed they will prove.

#### OBJECTS.

The general object of the Commission is, through suggestions reported from time to time to the Medical Bureau and the War Department, to bring to bear upon the health, comfort, and *morale* of our troops, the fullest and ripest teachings of Sanitary Science in its application to military life, whether deduced from theory or practical observation, from general hygienic principles, or from the experience of the Crimean, the East Indian, and the Italian wars. Its objects are purely advisory.

The specific points to which its attention would be directed may here be partly indicated, but in some part must depend upon the course of events, and the results of its own observations and promptings, when fairly at work. If it knew precisely what the results of its own inquiries would be, it would state them at once, without asking for that authority and those governmental facilities essential to a successful investigation of the subject. As the Government may select its own Commissioners—the persons named in the recommendation of the Medical Bureau being wholly undesirable, however willing to serve, if other persons more deserving of the confidence of the Government and of the public can be nominated—it is hoped that the character of the Commission will be the best warrant the Government can have that the inquiries of the Commission, both as to their nature and the manner of conducting them, will be

pursued with discretion and a careful eye to avoiding impertinent and offensive interference with the legal authority and official rights of any of the Bureaus with which it may be brought in contact.

## SPECIFICATIONS.

### I. MATERIEL.—II. PREVENTION —III. RELIEF.

I. *Materiel of the Volunteers.*—The Commission proposes a practical inquiry into the *materiel* of the Volunteer Force, with reference to the laws and usages of the several States in the matter of Inspection, with the hope of assimilating their regulations with those of the Army proper, alike in the appointment of medical and other officers and in the rigorous application of just rules and principles to recruiting and inspection laws. This inquiry would exhaust every topic appertaining to the original *materiel* of the army, considered as a subject of sanitary and medical care.

II. *Prevention.*—The Commission would inquire with scientific thoroughness into the subject of Diet, Cooking, Cooks, Clothing, Tents, Camping Grounds, Transports, Transitory Depots, with their exposures, Camp Police, with reference to settling the question, How far the regulations of the Army proper are or can be practically carried out among the Volunteer Regiments, and what changes or modifications are desirable from their peculiar character and circumstances? Everything appertaining to outfit, cleanliness, precautions against damp, cold, heat, malaria, infection; crude, unvaried, or ill-cooked food, and an irregular or careless regimental commissariat, would fall under this head.

III. *Relief.*—The Commission would inquire into the organization of Military Hospitals, general and regimental;



the precise regulations and routine through which the services of the patriotic women of the country may be made available as nurses ; the nature and sufficiency of Hospital supplies ; the method of obtaining and regulating all other extra and unbought supplies contributing to the comfort of the sick ; the question of ambulances and field service, and of extra medical aid ; and whatever else relates to the care, relief, or cure of the sick and wounded—their investigations being guided by the highest and latest medical and military experience, and carefully adapted to the nature and wants of our immediate army, and its peculiar origin and circumstances.

Very respectfully submitted, in behalf of the New York delegation.

HENRY W. BELLOWES, *Chairman.*

WILLIAM H. VAN BUREN, M. D.

JACOB HARSEN, M. D.

ELISHA HARRIS, M. D.

SANITARY COMMISSION ORDERED BY SECRETARY  
OF WAR, AND APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

*Washington, June 9, 1861.*

The Secretary of War has learned with great satisfaction that, at the instance and in pursuance of the suggestion of the Medical Bureau, in a communication to this office, dated May 22, 1861, Henry W. Bellows, D. D., Prof. A. D. Bache, LL.D., Prof. Jeffries Wyman, M. D., Prof. Wolcott Gibbs, M. D., W. H. Van Buren, M. D., Samuel G. Howe, M. D., R. C. Wood, Surgeon U. S. A., G. W. Cullum, U. S. A.,

Alexander E. Shiras, U. S. A., have mostly consented, in connection with such others as they may choose to associate with them, to act as "A Commission of Inquiry and Advice in respect of the Sanitary Interests of the United States Forces," and without remuneration from the Government. The Secretary has submitted their patriotic proposal to the consideration of the President, who directs the acceptance of the services thus generously offered.

The Commission, in connection with a Surgeon of the U. S. A., to be designated by the Secretary, will direct its inquiries to the principles and practices connected with the inspection of recruits and enlisted men ; the sanitary condition of the volunteers ; to the means of preserving and restoring the health, and of securing the general comfort and efficiency of troops ; to the proper provision of cooks, nurses, and hospitals ; and to other subjects of like nature.

The Commission will frame such rules and regulations, in respect of the objects and modes of its inquiry, as may seem best adapted to the purpose of its constitution, which, when approved by the Secretary, will be established as general guides of its investigations and action.

A room with necessary conveniences will be provided in the city of Washington for the use of the Commission, and the members will meet when and at such places as may be convenient to them for consultation, and for the determination of such questions as may come properly before the Commission.

In the progress of its inquiries, the Commission will correspond freely with the Department and with the Medical Bureau, and will communicate to each, from time to time, such observations and results as it may deem expedient and important.

The Commission will exist until the Secretary of War shall otherwise direct, unless sooner dissolved by its own action.

SIMON CAMERON,  
*Secretary of War.*

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I approve the above.

A. LINCOLN.

JUNE 13, 1861.

PLAN OF ORGANIZATION FOR "THE COMMISSION  
OF INQUIRY AND ADVICE IN RESPECT OF THE  
SANITARY INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES  
FORCES."

The Commission naturally divides itself into two branches, one of *Inquiry*, the other of *Advice*, to be represented by two principal committees, into which the Commission should divide.

I. INQUIRY.—This branch of the Commission would again naturally subdivide itself into three stems, inquiring successively in respect of the condition and wants of the troops:

1st. What *must be* the condition and want of troops gathered together in such masses, so suddenly, and with such inexperience?

2d. What *is* their condition?—a question to be settled only by direct and positive observation and testimony.

3d. What *ought to be* their condition, and how would Sanitary Science bring them up to the standard of the highest attainable security and efficiency?



*Sub-committees of branch of Inquiry.*

A. Under the first committee's care would come the suggestion of such immediate aid, and such obvious recommendations as an intelligent foresight and an ordinary acquaintance with received principles of sanitary science would enable the Board at once to urge upon the public authorities.

B. The second sub-committee would have in charge, directly or through agents, the actual exploration of recruiting posts, transports, camps, quarters, tents, forts, hospitals; and consultation with Officers, Colonels, Captains, Surgeons, and Chaplains, at their posts, to collect from them needful testimony as to the condition and wants of the troops.

C. The third sub-committee would investigate, theoretically and practically, all questions of diet, cooking, and cooks; of clothing, foot, head and body gear; of quarters, tents, booths, huts; of hospitals, field-service, nurses, and surgical dressers; of climate and its effects, malaria, and camp and hospital diseases and contagions; of ventillation, natural and artificial; of vaccination; anti-scorbutics; disinfectants; of sinks, drains, camp sites, and cleanliness in general; of best method of economizing and preparing rations, or changing or exchanging them. All these questions to be treated from the highest scientific ground, with the newest light of physiology, chemistry, and medicine, and the latest teachings of experience in the great continental wars.

Probably these Committees of Inquiry could convert to their use, without fee or reward, all our medical and scientific men now in the army, or elsewhere, especially by sending an efficient agent about among the regiments to establish active correspondence with surgeons, chaplains,

and others, as well as by a public advertisement and call for such help and information.

II. ADVICE.—This branch of the Commission would subdivide itself into three stems, represented by three sub-committees. The general object of this branch would be to get the opinions and conclusions of the Commission approved by the Medical Bureau, ordered by the War Department, carried out by the officers and men, and encouraged, aided, and supported by the benevolence of the public at large, and by the State governments. It would subdivide itself naturally into three parts.

1. A sub-committee, in direct relation with the Government, the Medical Bureau, and the War Department; having for its object the communication of the counsels of the Commission, and the procuring of their approval and ordering by the U. S. Government.

2. A sub-committee, in direct relation with the army officers, medical men, the camps and hospitals, whose duty it should be to look after the actual carrying out of the orders of the War Department and the Medical Bureau, and make sure, by inspection, urgency, and explanation, by influence, and all proper methods, of their actual accomplishment.

3. A sub-committee in direct relation with the State governments, and with the public associations of benevolence. First, to secure uniformity of plans, and then proportion and harmony of action; and finally, abundance of supplies in moneys and goods, for such extra purposes as the laws do not and cannot provide for.

*Sub-committees of branch of Advice.*

D. The sub-committee in direct relation with the Government, would immediately urge the most obvious measures,

· favored by the Commission on the War Department, and secure their emphatic reiteration of orders now neglected. It would establish confidential relations with the Medical Bureau. A Secretary, hereafter to be named, would be the head and hand of this sub-committee—always near the Government, and always urging the wishes and aims of the Commission upon its attention.

E. This sub-committee, in direct relation with the army officers, medical men, the camps, forts, and hospitals, would have for its duty to explain and enforce upon inexperienced, careless, or ignorant officials, the regulations of a sanitary kind ordered by the Department of War and the Medical Bureau; of complaining to the Department of disobedience, sloth, or defect, and of seeing to the general carrying out of the objects of the Commission in their practical details.

F. This sub-committee, in direct relation with State authorities and benevolent associations, would have for its duties to look after three chief objects. First. How far the difficulties in the sanitary condition and prospects of the troops are due to original defects in the laws of the States or the inspection usages, or in the manner in which officers, military or medical, have been appointed in the several States, with a view to the adoption of a general system, by which the State laws may all be assimilated to the United States regulations.

This could probably only be brought about by calling a convention of delegates from the several loyal States, to agree upon some uniform system; or, that failing, by agreeing upon a model State arrangement, and sending a suitable agent to the Governors and Legislatures with a prayer for harmonious action and coöperation.



Second. To call in New York a convention of delegates from all the benevolent associations throughout the country, to agree upon a plan of common action in respect of supplies, depots, and methods of feeding the extra demands of the Medical Bureau or Commissariat, without embarrassment to the usual machinery. This, too, might, if a convention were deemed impossible, be effected by sending about an agent of special adaptation. Thus the organizing, methodizing, and reducing to serviceableness, the vague, disproportioned, and hap-hazard benevolence of the public, might be successfully accomplished.

Third. To look after the pecuniary ways and means necessary for accomplishing the various objects of the Commission, through solicitation of donations, either from State treasuries or private beneficence. The treasurer might be at the head of this Special Committee.

#### OFFICERS.

If these general suggestions be adopted, the officers of the Commission might properly be a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

*President.*—His duties would be to call and preside over all meetings of the Commission, and give unity, method, and practical success to its counsels.

The *Vice President* would perform the President's duties in his absence.

The *Secretary* should be a gentleman of special competency, charged with the chief executive duties of the Commission, in constant correspondence with its President; be resident at Washington, and admitted to confidential intimacy with the Medical Bureau and the War Department. Under him such agents as could safely be trusted with the duties of inspection and advice in camps, hospitals, for-

tresses, &c., should work, receiving instructions from and reporting to him. He would be immediately in connection with the committees A and B of the Branch of Inquiry, and of committees D and E of the Branch of Advice.

The *Treasurer* would hold and disburse, as ordered by the Commission, the funds of the body. These funds would be derived from such sources as the Commission, when its objects were known, might find open or available. Donations, voluntary and solicited: contributions from patriotic and benevolent associations, or State treasuries, would be the natural supply of the cost of sustaining a commission whose members would give their time, experience, and labor to a cause of the most obvious and pressing utility, and the most radical charity and wide humanity; who, while unwilling to depend on the General Government for even their incidental expenses, could not perform their duties without some moderate sum in hand to facilitate their movements.

The publication of the final report of the Commission could be arranged by subscription or private enterprise.

As the scheme of this Commission may appear impracticable from apprehended jealousies, either on the part of the Medical Bureau or the War Department, it may be proper to state that the Medical Bureau itself asked for the appointment of the Commission, and that no ill-feeling exists or will exist between the Commission and the War Department, or the Government. The Commission grows out of no charges of negligence or incompetency in the War Department or the Medical Bureau. The sudden increase of volunteer forces has thrown unusual duties upon them. The Commission is chiefly concerned with the volunteers, and one of its highest ambitions is to bring the volunteers

up to the regulars in respect of sanitary regulations and customs. To aid the Medical Bureau, without displacing it, or in any manner infringing upon its rights and duties, is the object of the Commission. The embarrassments anticipated from etiquette or official jealousy have all been overcome in advance, by a frank and cordial understanding, met with large and generous feelings by the Medical Bureau and the Department of War.

HENRY W. BELLOWS, *President.*

PROF. A. D. BACHE, *Vice President.*

ELISHA HARRIS, M. D., *Cor. Sec'y.*

GEORGE W. CULLUM, *U. S. Army.*

ALEXANDER E. SHIRAS, *U. S. Army.*

ROBERT C. WOOD, M. D., *U. S. Army.*

WILLIAM H. VAN BUREN, M. D.

WOLCOTT GIBBS, M. D.

SAMUEL G. HOWE, M. D.

CORNELIUS R. AGNEW, M. D.

J. S. NEWBERRY, M. D.

GEORGE T. STRONG, *Treasurer.*

WASHINGTON, *June 13, 1861.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT,

*Washington, June 13, 1861.*

I hereby approve of the plan of organization proposed by the Sanitary Commission, as above given ; and all persons in the employ of the United States Government are directed and enjoined to respect and further the inquiries and objects of this Commission, to the utmost of their ability.

SIMON CAMERON,

*Secretary of War.*



TO THE PRESIDENTS AND OFFICERS OF THE VARIOUS LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

GENTLEMEN: You are directly and largely interested in the lives of our brave soldiers, so many of whom are insured in your several offices. Their principal danger comes, as you are well aware, not from the force of the enemy, but from the ravages of those diseases always active in camps and fortresses, and especially so among inexperienced volunteer troops, suddenly subjected to change of climate, to unusual heat, and to great exposure. The officers in charge of the principal portion of these lives are brave, intelligent men, ready to shed their blood for the liberties of the country; but they are without experience in the care of their soldiers, and, with the best intentions, must fail if not supported by extraneous efforts and experience, in saving them from pestilence and destruction in a ratio too fearful to name. In view of the enormous responsibility thrown by extraordinary events upon the Medical Bureau, and at the urgent instance of medical men at large, a Sanitary Commission has been appointed by the Government of the United States, to advise the War Department and the Medical Bureau, of the most efficient way of preventing disease among the troops and warding off general pestilence and rapid decimation, and to coöperate with them in their efforts to this end. Reasonable fears exist, that unless the most energetic efforts are made, one-half our whole volunteer force may not survive the exposures of the next four months. This Commission is now in full organization, and ready to go to work. It wants money. It needs twenty thousand dollars in hand to proceed with vigor to its sublimely important work. It has declined asking or receiving

money from the Government, for fear it might thus forfeit its independent position, and lose in moral strength what it gained by Government patronage. If the Government supported it, its members would be appointed by the Government and acquire a political character, or be chosen not for their competency to the work, but from local and partisan reasons. We choose, then, to depend as long and as far as we can on the support of the public. And we look to the Life Insurance Companies, whose intelligent acquaintance with vital statistics constitutes them the proper and the readiest judges of the necessity of such a Commission, to give the first endorsement to our enterprise by generous donations—the best proof they can afford the public of the solid claim we have on the liberality of the rich, the patriotic, and the humane. We beg to remind you, moreover, that even those Life Insurance Companies which have no war risks outstanding are directly and deeply interested in promoting the objects of this Commission. For no fact in medical history is better established than this—that diseases breaking out among soldiers in camp or garrison, for the want of prudent sanitary measures, and extending among them on any considerable scale, are soon shared by the community at large. The mere presence in any country of an army extensively infected, is a centre of poison to its whole people. If pestilence do not break out (as it commonly does) ordinary maladies assume a malignant and unmanageable type, and the general ratio of mortality is heightened in a fearful degree.

Our case is urgent, and every hour's delay is a serious blow to our success. We ask for prompt, nay, for immediate action. We wish to send skilled agents to every point of danger—men armed with the influence and authority of the

Sanitary Commission—to put all general officers and all medical men, the captains and all other responsible persons, whether in camps or fortresses, upon their guard ; to arouse an unusual attention to the subject of good cooking, regular meals, absolute cleanliness, proper ventilation, and the use of prophylactics. An examination of the papers accompanying this appeal, will show you the ampleness of our powers, and the vigor and completeness of our machinery. We can do a vast work, in a short time, if we have abundant means. Fifty thousand dollars would, we seriously think, enable us to save fifty thousand lives. Can there be any hesitation in furnishing such a sum, for such a vast and holy purpose? And ought not, must not, your Life Insurance Companies lead boldly and generously in this imperative duty? We are willing to give our time, our thoughts, our energies, and whatever of skill, experience, and knowledge we may possess, to this work ; but we look to you and to the wealth of our cities to supply us with the money required to effect the beneficent objects proposed by the Sanitary Commission.

Very respectfully and fraternally, yours,

HENRY W. BELLOWS, *President.*

ALEX. D. BACHE.

WM. H. VAN BUREN, M. D.

WOLCOTT GIBBS, M. D.

C. R. AGNEW, M. D.

JOHN S. NEWBERRY, M. D., (Cleveland.)

FRED. LAW OLMSTEAD.

GEO. T. STRONG, *Treasurer.*

ELISHA HARRIS, M. D., *Corresponding Sec'y.*

SANITARY COMMISSION,

(In Session in New York,)

June 21, 1861.

## CIRCULAR ASKING CONTRIBUTIONS.

SANITARY COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, D. C.,

*Treasury Building, June 22, 1861.*

SIR : The Sanitary Commission just ordered by the United States Government has a field of labor open to it of vast importance and immense urgency. The lives of 250,000 troops, four times more endangered from disease than from the casualties of war, are now hanging in the scales ; and whether fifty per cent. of them are carried off by dysentery, fever, and cholera, in the course of the next four months, or whether they are maintained at what, under the best condition, is the double risk of life, depends, under God, upon the most efficient application of sanitary science to their protection. In the sudden and enormous responsibility thrown upon the Government, the usual medical dependence is so strained that extraordinary means are necessary to meet the case. Under these circumstances our Commission, with special power and duties, has been brought into existence. To avoid political jealousies and secure a board of harmonious and high-toned advisers, it has been thought desirable to derive the support of the Commission from the public, rather than the Government. The Commissioners freely give their time, experience, and labor to the country. But they must keep active agents at numerous points constantly and vigilantly at work, in urging the preventive measures on which they depend for success ; and this involves a large expenditure of money. It is supposed that fifty thousand dollars could be expended with the greatest advantage during the present year in the work of the Commission, and that every single dollar so spent would save one life. Every dollar less than this placed at the disposal of the Commission must be considered as the



needless exposure and probable loss of a life ! It is hoped that the character and standing of the Commissioners is the only warrant the public will require for their energetic and faithful performance of the duties assigned them. Under these circumstances, the undersigned, members of the Sanitary Commission now in session in New York, ask the immediate contributions of the men of wealth in as generous a measure as the greatness of the interest at stake and the urgency of the case may prompt their humane hearts and fore-looking minds.

It is hardly necessary to suggest that every soldier who survives the exposure of the next four months will be worth for military purposes, two fresh recruits; that every man lost by neglect makes a complaining family, and forms a ground of unpopularity for the war; that every sick man deprives the ranks of one or two well men detailed to take care of him; that pestilence will demoralize and frighten those whom armed enemies cannot scare; that the men now in the field are the flower of the nation; that their places cannot be filled, either at home or in the ranks; and that the economical, the humane, the patriotic, the successful conduct of this war, and its speedy termination, is now more dependent on the *health* of the troops than any and all other conditions combined.

Help us, then, dear sir, to do this work, for which our machinery is now complete ! Help us generously; help us at once !

In the name of God, humanity, and our country !

Yours, fraternally,

HENRY W. BELLOWS,

PROF. A. D. BACHE,

ELISHA HARRIS, M. D.,

GEORGE W. CULLUM, *U. S. Army*,  
 ALEXANDER E. SHIRAS, *U. S. Army*,  
 ROBERT C. WOOD, M. D., *U. S. Army*,  
 WILLIAM H. VAN BUREN, M. D.,  
 WOLCOTT GIBBS, M. D.,  
 SAMUEL G. HOWE, M. D.,  
 CORNELIUS R. AGNEW, M. D.,  
 J. S. NEWBERRY, M. D.,  
 GEORGE T. STRONG,  
 FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED,  
*Commissioners.*

## LETTER SOLICITING CO-OPERATION OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.

TREASURY BUILDING,  
*Washington, D. C., June 22, 1861.*

DEAR SIR : We have the honor to inform you that at a meeting of the Sanitary Commission this day held in the city of New York, you were duly elected an associate member.

We enclose herewith copies of the address issued by the Commission, and of other papers, from which you will readily inform yourself as to its constitution and objects, and as to the urgent necessity which led to its creation by Government.

We trust you will be led to share our conviction that the speediest and most energetic action on the part of the Commission and its associate members, and of the whole country, is absolutely necessary to preserve our armies now in the

field from the destructive epidemics to which ill-regulated camps are exposed.

For this purpose we entreat your active coöperation and support.

Any suggestions and advice which your experience may suggest are earnestly solicited. We also ask that you will do whatever lies in your power to obtain for the Commission the means required to carry out its object, to inform the public fully (through the press and otherwise) of the existence and design of the Commission, and of the great and pressing danger which it is intended to mitigate or to remove: to promote the establishment of auxiliary organizations, and so to direct the labors of associations already formed for the aid and relief of our armies, that they may strengthen and support those of the Committee.

As this subject is one of national interest, and as prompt and energetic action on it by liberal, intelligent, and prudent men throughout the country is indispensable to prevent the most fearful disaster and loss, both public and private, we confidently rely on your cordial support and aid.

Communications may be addressed to E. Harris, M. D., Corresponding Secretary of the Commission, Washington, D. C. Subscriptions and donations to George T. Strong, Treasurer, 68 Wall street, New York.

Very respectfully, yours,

HENRY W. BELLOWS, *President*,

ALEX. DALLAS BACHE,

GEO. W. CULLUM, U. S. A.,

ALEX. E. SHIRAS, U. S. A.,

ROBT. C. WOOD, M. D., U. S. A.,

SAMUEL G. HOWE, M. D.,

WM. H. VAN BUREN, M. D.,

WOLCOTT GIBBS, M. D.,  
 CORNELIUS R. AGNEW, M. D.,  
 JOHN S. NEWBERRY, M. D.,  
 FRED. LAW. OLMSTED,  
 GEO. T. STRONG,  
 ELISHA HARRIS, M. D.,  
*Commissioners.*

To

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LETTER OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE EXECUTIVE  
 COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL FINANCIAL COM-  
 MITTEE, IN NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, *July 9, 1861.*

TO HON. SAMUEL B. RUGGLES, CHRISTOPHER R. ROBERT,  
 ROBERT B. MINTURN, GEORGE OPDYKE, JONATHAN STURGES,  
 MORRIS KETCHUM, WILLIAM A. BOOTH, DAVID HOADLEY,  
 J. P. GIRAUD FOSTER, and CHARLES E. STRONG, members  
 of the Executive Committee of the Central Financial  
 Committee of the U. S. Sanitary Commission :

GENTLEMEN: On returning from a tour of inspection of our  
 troops in the West, I hear with the liveliest satisfaction  
 that the thoughtful, business men of New York, associated  
 with other patriotic individuals throughout the country,  
 have taken in hand the pecuniary interests of "The Sanitary  
 Commission," and are devising ways and means of supply-  
 ing it with money—the true and only means of strength and  
 efficiency. Could I transfer to your hearts and minds the  
 rich experience of the last fortnight passed in the camps of  
 the West, you would need nothing further to animate you  
 to the most earnest, immediate, and unwearied efforts to



provide our Commission with money—the only thing it now lacks to give it a benignant power to diminish and control the malignant influences that hang darkly round our troops, and threaten to make out of the most precious portion of our whole population another “noble Army of Martyrs !” Money ! money ! promptly and liberally expended in supplying our officers and men with the instructions, the warnings, and the aids which their inexperienced and unfurnished condition demands, and which only an association like our own—of an extraordinary character, unhampered by routine, and with special rights and privileges granted by the Government, with express reference to the exigencies of this exceptional case—can hope to impart, with promptness enough to secure the end.

Money is the indispensable condition of our success, and the only one now wanting.

Consider the prospects of 250,000 troops, chiefly volunteers, gathered not only from the out-door, but still more from the in-door occupations of life ; farmers, clerks, students, mechanics, lawyers, doctors, accustomed, for the most part, to regularity of life, and those comforts of home which, above any recorded experience, bless our own prosperous land and benignant institutions ; consider those men, used to the tender providence of mothers, wives, and sisters, to varied and well prepared food, separate and commodious homes, moderate toil, to careful medical supervision in all their ailments—consider these men, many of them not yet hardened into the bone of rugged manhood, suddenly precipitated by unexpected events into the field of war, at the very season of the greatest heat, transferred to climates to which they are unwonted, driven to the use of food and water to which they are not accustomed, living

in crowded barracks and tents, sleeping on the bare earth, broken of rest, called on to bear arms six and eight hours a day, to make rapid marches over rough roads in July and August, wearing their thick uniforms and carrying heavy knapsacks on their backs—and what can be looked for, but men falling by the dozen in the ranks from sheer exhaustion, hundreds prostrated with relaxing disorders, and, finally, thousands suddenly swept off by camp diseases, the result of irregularity of life, exposure, filth, heat, and inability to take care of themselves under such novel conditions. If you add the reflection that the brave and worthy officers who command these men are, from the very nature of the case, wholly inexperienced in camp-life, that they are usually no more than the social equals of those they are set over, that the excellent and devoted medical men selected to watch over our volunteers are equally unaccustomed to the field and to the military hospital, that their commissaries and quartermasters have been summoned from civil life, and that our whole military array, with so small an exception as not to be worth noting, is the product of a rare necessity, extemporized almost as miraculously as the armed men that sprang from the teeth that Cadmus sowed, you will at once feel how inevitable must be the defects, the friction, the mistakes, the delays, the dreadful consequences to health and life attending the very collection and existence of such a body of troops, so officered and so provided for.

Can anything but the energetic interposition of a body of persons devoting themselves to the special work of furnishing condensed experience to officers and men, diligently attending the camps, bringing instantly to headquarters the warnings of scientific and practical instruction, relieving surgeons, commissaries, and quartermasters of their en-

barrassing want of knowledge how, in the shortest manner, to relieve their official necessities, establishing a quick connection between the volunteers starting under State patronage, and sadly tried to understand how their relations are changed upon passing under United States control, and the General Government, who can alone relieve their wants.

My recent experience in the West has confirmed all my expectations of the feasibility of such a service, and removed every doubt which others had raised, in regard to the cheerful acceptance on the part of officers and surgeons, of this extraordinary intervention. I went in some little anxiety as to the welcome I might receive as the envoy of that mixed body, scientific, medical, military, and civil, the Sanitary Commission. But I found my way prepared before me. Tidings of the appointment of the Commission had already spread far and wide. Orders for our cordial reception had providently gone forth from the War Department. From the highest to the lowest officials the most generous courtesy, the most willing coöperation, the most grateful sympathy, flowed without any interruption from a jealous etiquette or an imperilled dignity. The officers of the Regular Army were just as kind and cordial as those of the Volunteers, and I am now sure that none of the difficulties anticipated from a conflict of powers, are at all likely to arise with a reasonable discretion on our part. Indeed, no averted eye or cold shoulder, either from a medical or military official, chilled my heart, in a visit extended to 20,000 troops, to twenty hospitals, to hundreds of medical gentlemen, and yet I spared no warning, no remonstrance, no earnest words of entreaty, made necessary by what I found defective in the camp-police, the hospital arrangements, the inexperience of officers. Plain, honest, earnest.

direct words, kindly and sympathizingly spoken, were the only weapons found necessary, besides the governmental authority to utter them. This was indispensable, and it was a great boon to possess it.

I cannot here spread out the ample details which I proceed to Washington this evening to lay before the Sanitary Commission and the Government, as materials towards a correct judgment and immediate action. The general impression, however, which my visit to Camp Dennison, near Cincinnati, Camp McClellan, at Cairo, Camp Pope, at Alton, and other smaller collections of Western troops made upon me, I do earnestly desire at once to communicate.

A nobler, manlier, a more intelligent, earnest, and valuable body of troops was never gathered on the earth's surface, than the 20,000 men I saw in these camps ! They are fully equal to the best of our Eastern troops in clothing and equipments, and better than that, their equals in moral force, and directness and seriousness of purpose. I have visited them in their tents and barracks, hastily of course ; seen them in the ranks, witnessed their evolutions, and marked their drill ; messed with the men and with their officers ; conversed freely with hundreds in the hospitals, which now, all told, hold perhaps near a thousand of the 20,000, who are more or less seriously ill ; but sick or well, in camp or on parade, I have seen only one spirit—a profound love of country, a solemn sense of the necessity of this war, a willingness to die in defence of the sacred interests at stake, with a most assured sense that God was behind and victory before them ! Since the earliest and best days of the war of the reformation no such spirit has stirred soldiers in the field as that which now animates our troops. Nor were so many priceless lives ever so freely



offered for an end so devotedly held to be worth all it can cost. The perils of the actual battle field are nothing to such men ; the injury their open enemies can do them, almost not worth thinking of ; but will malaria, fever, pestilence—irrational and viewless enemies—be as little dangerous? No ! It is before these inglorious but deadly foes that our brave boys will flinch ; before their unseen weapons that they will fall ! Their generous and self-devoted officers are likely to be the first to suffer. They share the hardships, they more than share the labor and exposure of their commands. They have the best purposes. But they know not yet how to control the diet, the personal habits, the ventilation and police of their quarters and camps. They are studying war *tactics*, intent on making *soldiers* ; they rashly assume that intelligent men know how to take care of themselves ; and they are already finding camp dysentery seizing their regiments with a most threatening grasp. The most striking difference is already apparent in camps and troops, according as attention is given or denied to the character of the water used, the situation of the camp with reference to the prevailing winds, and to the regulation of sinks and the cleansing of tents and quarters. Two regiments, separated by a quarter of a mile only, contained, in one camp not a dozen sick men ; in the other, two hundred and fifty men more or less ill with dysenteric diarrhœa, and all because one was on a plain with decent well-water at hand, the other in a wood, with a wretched puddle of black ditch-water as the only resource for drinking and cooking ! Do you ask, will medical men and officers, too, stand with folded arms and see this go on without immediate and energetic remonstrance and action? They will, I reply, under some provision of military etiquette, or some governmental

obstacle—which it requires the boldness and decision of a power in confidential relations with the War Department to put aside. We possess this power.

But, gentlemen, I must spare you and the public and myself any further details. I am confident I have said enough to stimulate your utmost energies in supplying us with the means of immediately sending efficient men, experts in sanitary matters, into every camp and fortress, and of keeping them there, under our direction, and fortified with all the authority of our Commission, to warn, instruct, and befriend our officers and men, coöperating with the noble physicians who have so largely volunteered in this war, in preventing all the disease that can be prevented by sanitary science, and in assuaging and mitigating all that must inevitably visit our troops. You, with the response which the public will give your honored names, must place us in a position of moral independence, by enabling us to dispense with all pecuniary support from the Government. The Government has given us what is far more important, its sanction and its authority. We seek from sources that you command the material aid, which at your hands we can receive without loss of moral power and position with the country and the army. Thanking you, in advance, in the name of the Army, the Government, and the Commission, for any labors and sacrifices you may make in our behalf;

I remain, gentlemen, your obliged friend and servant.

HENRY W. BELLOWS,

*President of the Sanitary Commission.*

## APPEAL OF THE EXECUTIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

### TO OUR FELLOW-CITIZENS :

The Committee, addressed in the preceding letter from Dr. Bellows, the President of the Sanitary Commission, earnestly entreat your immediate and hearty coöperation in the noble undertaking it so ably advocates.

Never before, in the history of human benevolence, did a gracious Providence vouchsafe an opportunity for doing good on such a scale ; to so great a number ; in so short a time ; and with comparatively so little money. Of the immense array of three hundred thousand men now in arms in our defence—to be swelled, if necessary, to five hundred thousand—the experienced military and medical members of the Sanitary Commission declare that *one-fifth*, if not one-fourth, may be saved by proper care, who must otherwise perish. Reducing the results of individual action to a form still more precise, they estimate that *every dollar*, honestly and judiciously expended in sanitary measure, will save at least *one soldier's life*.

Cannot a city like ours, find forty or fifty, or even sixty thousand dollars, to save a like number of the sons, the brothers, the friends, the fellow-countrymen now gone to battle for the very purpose of rebuilding its own broken fortunes, of restoring, in fullest measure, its former prosperity?

Fellow-citizens : We cannot afford that any one of our brave defenders shall needlessly perish. All our interests, commercial, fiscal, political, and moral, are crying aloud for a speedy termination of this great national conflict. In such a struggle, it is madness to waste a single hour, still more a single life. Most of all, should we avoid the ruinous delay

of slowly replacing in the wasted camp, the tens of thousands which our neglect may thoughtlessly leave to die, almost within our sight.

Men and women of New York! We beg you to awake to instant action. Death is already in the breeze. Disease, insidious and inevitable, is now stealing through the camps, on scorching plain, in midnight damp, menacing our dearest treasure—the very flower of the nation's youth. You surely will not permit them thus ingloriously to perish. In the name of humanity and patriotism—in the name alike of justice and manly generosity, bidding us save them who stake their lives in saving us—in the name of the honored ancestors, who fought for the land we live in—in the name of the Blessed Being, the friend on earth of the sick and the suffering, we now commit this holy cause to your willing hearts, your helping hands; with our earnest assurance that, whatever you do will be doubly welcome, if done at once.

SAMUEL B. RUGGLES,  
CHRISTOPHER R. ROBERT,  
ROBERT B. MINTURN,  
GEORGE OPDYKE,  
JONATHAN STURGES,  
MORRIS KETCHUM,  
WILLIAM A. BOOTH,  
DAVID HOADLEY,  
J. P. GIRAUD FOSTER,  
CHARLES E. STRONG,

*Members of the Executive Committee of the Central  
Financial Committee U. S. Sanitary Association.*

NEW YORK, *July 13, 1861.*



# REPORT OF A PRELIMINARY SURVEY OF THE CAMPS OF A PORTION OF THE VOLUNTEER FORCES NEAR WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, *July 9*, 1861.

To the SANITARY COMMISSION :

GENTLEMEN : Your Resident Secretary has inspected twenty of the volunteer camps during the last ten days. Of most of these his examination has been cursory, his object being to acquire some knowledge of the ordinary and average condition of the force, to enable him the better to direct subsequent inquiry, rather than to personally make an exact survey of the condition of each regiment. Of some few, however, his examination has been thorough, while from others he has received reports of inspections made under his instructions with a view to obtain precise information. Considerable confidence can therefore be placed in the general conclusions as to matters of fact, which will be expressed. The camps of the Rhode Islanders and of the 71st and 12th New York militia have not been visited, because it has been understood that their condition was exceptional, and no time could be spared from more general duties for the purpose.

The Resident Secretary has also endeavored to make himself acquainted with the character of the supplies furnished, and with the manner of their distribution.

Having been accompanied in most of his visits by Dr. Harris, the Resident Secretary will omit, as far as practicable, observations on the distinctly medical condition of the forces, presuming that Dr. Harris, on his return from Fort Monroe, will present a report on this topic.

## SITUATION AND DRAINAGE.

The camps, generally, are favorably situated as to natural surface drainage. In many cases, not the slightest artificial drainage has been arranged; in others, surface-drains have been dug on one or two sides of a tent, or a line of tents, but an outlet entirely neglected, and this, sometimes, where an hour's labor of a man would have formed one. The drains are consequently ineffective. A complete system of drains, such as should have been laid out and made in the very hour the tents were pitched, can scarcely be found in any camp. In consequence of this neglect, during a recent sudden heavy rain at night, it is reported that water stood two inches deep in the tents of many camps. In respect of drainage by filtration, the quality of the soil and subsoil varies too much to allow any general statement to be made.

The camps are generally on open ground, but some of them in the shade of woods, and the latter seem generally considered to be the more fortunate sites. Looking to the health of the men, this is unquestionably a grave error, of which evidence abounds. It is an advantage, however, to have a shaded place for drill near the camp, as is sometimes the case with those on the open ground.

The tents are placed much closer together than they should be; closer than is usual in camps of regulars, unless under special circumstances.

The site of the camps is selected by an officer of the quartermaster's department, not by the regimental officers.

Night-soil has been recently deposited in large quantity within a short distance of several of the camps, and between them and the town. This has occurred, because the scavengers have been unable to pass the lines of sentries at

night. Immediately on learning this, a note was addressed by the Secretary to the mayor of the city, and a communication obtained with the health officer, who readily promised that the practice should be avoided. The use of cheap disinfectants was recommended to him to be applied to the night-soil already deposited near the camps.

#### MALARIA. "

There have been but few cases of intermittent fever found; three in one regiment is the largest number; this camp was situated near a pond.

#### SUN-STROKE.

A few cases have occurred in almost every encampment. The men are generally provided with "havelocks," which are worn or dispensed with according to the caprice of individuals. Even at the dress parade in most regiments, each man wears a havelock or not, at his pleasure. The havelocks, as generally made, are of little use. The article worn by the Indian troops, pictures of which probably suggested that termed in America the havelock, is quilted and stiff, resting on the shoulders, and thus kept open, clear of the ears, and allowing a free circulation of air beneath. Men who have been drinking freely of water when on a march, or at drill, are the most frequent sufferers from sun-stroke.

#### WATER.

Water of good quality is generally found in abundance near each camp.

#### TENTS.

The most common tent is a poor affair, being similar in

form to the French *tent d'abri*, but without its advantage of portability. The common wall-tent is also largely used, and is much better. During the day the walls are triced up, and the tent is well ventilated; but at night, if the walls are lifted, or the flaps opened, the drift of the dew-laden wind across the men sleeping on the ground is felt to be severely cold. In most cases, therefore—the officers paying, apparently, no attention to the matter—the tents are closed as tightly as possible at night, and are crowded full of sleepers, six to eight and sometimes ten men being found in each. Of course they breathe a most vitiated atmosphere. Those who are most sensitive to this are sometimes forced out of the tent; and in a camp visited at night, the Secretary discovered that many men were sleeping on the ground, without any protection from dew or malarious influences. This had not been regarded, and apparently was unknown to the regimental officers. The wall tent, when provided, as it is sometimes found to be, with large square openings at the end, with flaps to button over them when necessary, is the most comfortable tent for summer. This, or some other opening for ventilation, well above the ground, should be provided in all cases. The “Sibley” is, however, much the best tent for all purposes, and it is to be hoped that it will rapidly displace all others. It is easily ventilated, and at the same time supplies the best protection to its occupants during inclement weather.

The men generally sleep on a single blanket spread upon the ground. The regiments sent by the New York Union Defence Committee, and some few others, are provided with India-rubber tent-floors or blankets, and, in some cases, the tents are furnished with plank floors. These, which would otherwise seem to be best for a fixed camp, afford an unfor-

tunate facility for the accumulation of unwholesome rubbish. Where there are no floors, loose straw is sometimes used, and in other cases straw in sacks.

#### SINKS.

In most cases the only sink is merely a straight trench, some thirty feet long, unprovided with a pole or rail; the edges are filthy, and the stench exceedingly offensive; the easy expedient of daily turning fresh earth into the trench being often neglected. In one case, men with diarrhœa complained that they had been made sick to vomiting by the incomplete arrangement and filthy condition of the sink. Often the sink is too near the camp. In many regiments the discipline is so lax that the men avoid the use of the sinks, and the whole neighborhood is rendered filthy and pestilential. From the ammoniacal odor frequently perceptible in some camps, it is obvious that the men are allowed to void their urine, during the night, at least, wherever convenient.

#### PERSONAL CLEANLINESS.

In but few cases are the soldiers obliged to regard any rules of personal cleanliness. Their clothing is shamefully dirty, and they are often lousy. Although access is easily had to running water, but few instances are known where any part of the force is daily marched, as a part of the camp routine, to bathe. A careful daily inspection of the state of the men's clothing is probably made in few, if any, regiments. Whatever good qualities they possess in other respects, so far from being good soldiers in this, which has been long held the elementary condition of good soldiers, our volunteers are, in many cases, really much dirtier than



it can be believed they have been accustomed to be in their civil life ; and it is obvious that neither they nor their officers comprehend in the slightest their duty in this particular, nor the danger and inconvenience they are bringing upon themselves by its neglect. The clothing of the men, from top to toe, is almost daily saturated with sweat and packed with dust, and to all appearance, no attempt is generally made to remove this, even superficially. Each man should be provided with a switch or small cat with which to whip his clothing, and a brush to remove the dust after it has been brought to the surface. It is suggested that these and other instruments of cleanliness should be provided to the men, as in the French service, and that they should be required to carry them and exhibit them at inspection, as a part of the Government property for which they are responsible.

#### CAMP POLICE.

There is often hardly a pretence of performing the ordinary police duties of a military camp. The men take food into their tents, and its crumbs and morsels are to be seen covered with flies in the inside, in the intervening spaces, and even in the camp streets, which seldom appear well swept. Often the drains are so neglected that they become receptacles for rubbish. Within the tents a musty smell is often perceptible. It is suggested that the Commission should recommend that orders be given that during the summer all camps should be shifted at least once in ten days, unless imperative military reasons forbid, and that twice a week all tents should be struck, turned inside out and shaken, all bedding and blankets shaken, the site of tents swept, and, if practicable, sprinkled with a disinfect-

ing fluid or lightly strewn with powdered charcoal or plaster of Paris. It is believed that some very detailed instructions in camp police duties may with great advantage be furnished the officers.

#### CLOTHING.

The volunteers have generally an abundance of clothing, such as it is, though there are a few who have not a change of shirts. The dress of the majority is inappropriate, unbecoming, uncomfortable, and not easily kept in a condition consonant with health. It is generally much inferior, in every desirable respect, to the clothing of the regulars, while it has cost more than theirs. Considering all the conditions and contingencies of the business in which the volunteers are about to engage, and in view of the many advantages of simplifying all the machinery of the army as much as possible, it may be best for the Commission to recommend that volunteers for ordinary infantry service be hereafter required to adopt the regulation uniform. This could be furnished by the Government, under bonds, to those recruiting the regiments, or to the State governments called upon or undertaking to supply them, at a much less price than, judging from recent experience, any other tolerable uniforms can be procured by special contract. It may also be best to recommend the early substitution of the regulation garments for those now worn by the volunteers; these being already in many instances in bad condition. A New York soldier has been seen going on duty in his drawers and overcoat, his body coat and pantaloons being quite worn to shreds. It is possible that some modification of the present regulation uniform may be made with advantage. If so, this should be in the direction of greater sim-

plicity of parts, greater independence of the baggage wagon, and more grace of appearance. The most conspicuous part of the present uniform is the hat. It is said to be convenient and healthful. The common kepi of the volunteer is pert, unsubstantial, ungraceful, uncomfortable, and dangerous. Covered with what is called the havelock, it is excessively conspicuous—quite unfit for scouting or skirmishing duty. It interferes with the hearing, and, through the common neglect of duty of the volunteer officers, it is allowed to be worn without uniformity, and becomes very untidy. The regulation hat, as it stands, is better than any other military head dress to be now seen in Washington. Yet its heavy and inelegant character might, it is hoped, be somewhat modified without lessening its essential value. A slight enlargement of the brim, a more tapering form to the crown, and the introduction of some color, possibly making the whole hat of a neutral tint, with a complementary band or plume, would certainly effect an æsthetic improvement. A different kind of shirt might economically displace the present one, which is coarse and harsh in quality. The regulation shoes and socks are far superior to those generally worn by the volunteers, but might perhaps be better. A very slight improvement in the quality of these articles would justify a large additional cost. The French trappings of the soldier, of the latest pattern, seem to be more substantial and convenient than those of the United States regular pattern, better calculated to preserve health and a certain degree of comfort under circumstances which most try the strength and *morale* of the soldier. If this is the case, Government should not for a moment hesitate to adopt them. Our volunteers are generally men unaccustomed to the necessary hardships of the soldier, suffering

from loose discipline, and the rashness, improvidence, ignorance, and neglect of extemporized officers. They need, therefore, far more than regular soldiers, every advantage which it is possible for science and art to offer, for bearing about with them, in the easiest possible manner, means of sustaining their strength, which shall be proof against accidents and available under the greatest variety of circumstances. To simplify what is to be carried as far as possible, and yet to make the soldier more than ever independent of fortune, must be the purpose of all suggestions for a change. No improvement is so great as that which lessens the necessary recurrence of the soldier to the baggage train and the hospital. Whatever does this must almost certainly be economical.

#### FOOD.

*De gustibus non disputandum.* No two reports agree, and the Secretary, having given more time to the study of the subject than to all others during the last week, confesses himself to be yet bewildered by the different statements of matters of fact, and the different judgments on matters of opinion which he has constantly encountered.

Where there is not a most incredible ignorance, incapacity, or neglect on the part of the officers, the regiments are supplied with an over-abundance of the raw material of food, excellent of its kind.

To all appearance, the Commissary Department is pursuing a generous, wise, and liberal course, dispensing with the usual forms and checks, anticipating and overlooking the neglect of the volunteer officers, and supplying a larger variety of food than is usually served to regulars, or than can be drawn for, as a right, under the army regulations.

This very laxity, however, has its disadvantages, and that regiments should sometimes meet with considerable hardship from irregularity of supplies is a matter of course. It is, indeed, wonderful that such a large body of men should be so fully and regularly supplied as is our army, and the Commission need hardly concern itself with the exceptional instances. It is doubtful if any army of the same size ever fared as well as to substantial articles of food, for months together. The raw materials furnished are generally atrociously cooked and wickedly wasted. In consequence of waste, complaint is sometimes made of inadequate supplies, but this is remarkably rare, proving that with care the supply would in all cases be over-abundant.

The question remains, whether the food is of the best kind that could be afforded, and in sufficient variety? There are grave objections to the introduction of almost any new article into the dietary of the army; simplicity, and facility of transport and preservation being necessary conditions not only of each article in itself, but of all the ration in the aggregate. To increase the number of articles is to increase the duty already heavily overburdening the Subsistence Department, and there are great and insurmountable difficulties in enlarging the force of the Subsistence Department with the rapidity required to provide for all the contingencies of the heterogeneous host, with its incapable officers, suddenly dependent on that department for the sustenance of life. It is a great thing to accomplish the provisioning of this host with the simplest and most easily procured and transported food, by any possible means. It is a still greater thing to have this done honestly and thoroughly well, guarding against scandalous frauds and great and disgusting wastes. Every addition



to the dietary of the army increases the difficulty of this task.

This must not be forgotten in the consideration of the thousand and one improvements on the ration which have found and will continue to find public advocacy, and some of which are being now especially urged on the Commission as worthy of its recommendation. It is daily made obvious that no intelligent civilian deems the present regulation ration a suitable and sufficient one for the volunteers, called from the north to the south in the heat of summer ; but rash and arbitrary changes might easily be made which would be extremely perilous.

For a well-established force with but a small proportion of recruits, and these chiefly accustomed to a poor diet, marching or stationed on a distant frontier, with the advantage of a well-regulated sutler's establishment, a well-managed company fund, and with the guidance and inspection of officers who understand their business, and must attend to it for their own safety's sake, if for no better reason, our army ration is excellent. We have had a rich government, a small army, and an abundance of educated officers, who have patiently studied to effect improvements in its administration. In every line, the regulations show careful observation and reflection, and the most thorough, honorable, and conscientious effort to bring about that which was best for our army, in the average circumstances under which it has been organized, officered, and placed hitherto. The only criticism which can be made against the regulations, general and special, seems to the Secretary to be, that in the effort to guard against fraud and waste, and to impose restrictions and checks upon extravagance, sufficient discretion to vary from the ordinary rules, when desirable, has

not been had, and habits of routine and respect for precedent have been too much expected and encouraged. Even this is made with some doubt of there being present occasion for it, and the Secretary is inclined to believe that little is needed to effect all that is practicable, further than to strengthen the hands and give increased confidence to those now having the largest responsibilities in this matter.

Clear, fat, salt pork is the back-bone of the army ration. The authorized quantity of beef is larger than that of pork, but beef is liable to more contingencies of failure than pork. Fat pork of excellent quality, with beans and coffee, seldom fails. And under frontier hardships, in contrast to the ordinary diet of the savage, or even of the pioneer settler, these furnish not a bad stand-by, especially for cold weather. Beans boiled five hours with salt pork make a soup or porridge, savory, exceedingly nutritious, and wholesome for most men ; add a copious allowance of hot coffee, and men in good health coming in wet, cold, and weary from a scout or from guard duty, can hardly be supplied with anything better. And it is for men in such circumstances that our military officers, whose soul is in their business, have had to think, first and last. Satisfy those who have been used hardest, upon whose pluck and cheerfulness and strength the most has depended, and there need be little care for the rest.

But here, in the midst of summer, we have an army of unacclimated men, drawn chiefly from dense communities, differing among themselves greatly in their habits, but nearly all accustomed to a large variety of food.

Fat salt pork is not proper food for them, and the department has provided the alternative, beef, generally of the most excellent quality, in abundant quantity. If the

men have too much salt food here at present, it is the fault of their regimental officers. But as the army moves southward, will it not often happen that, owing to accidental causes, one or the other of these articles, beef or salt pork, will fail? If so, then, as far as meat is concerned, the diet must be either exclusively of pork or exclusively of beef. It is worth while to consider whether arrangements cannot be immediately made for a large supply of fresh mutton. Could not, at least, desiccated mutton as well as desiccated beef, and desiccated beef soup, be procured in a short time in large quantities? If so, no time should be lost in establishing this guard against the danger of failure of better provisions.

As to vegetables, there is not probably a single surgeon attached to a volunteer regiment in the vicinity of Washington, who will not testify that the troops are now suffering in health for a want of vegetables. And whatever may be the character of some of the volunteer surgeons, there are, among them, gentlemen of as high professional reputation as any in the army. Directly or indirectly, the prevailing diarrhœa is, in almost every case, attributed to this cause. A case of scurvy in the troops about Washington is already reported.\* The volunteer army is generally believed to be in great danger of decimation by scurvy and dysentery. It must be admitted that there is great difficulty in procuring and transporting a large daily supply of green vegetables in good order, and in serving them out systematically for eighty thousand men. It appears to have been not possible, up to this time, to obtain even the necessary local means of transport for this purpose. Are these

\* A number are reported at the West.

difficulties to increase as the army is moved into the southern wilderness? In any case this seems really the most important point in which it is possible for the energy and enterprise and capital of the Government to be directed for the protection of the army.

A liberal allowance of fresh potatoes, when these can be procured, and, at all events, of desiccated potatoes, mixed vegetables, and dried fruits, which can be supplied with as much certainty as pork, would add vastly to the cheerfulness of the army, and thus to its strength and health, even if it were not certain to do so more directly. These articles should be issued *by regulation*, and not according to the judgment or caprice of the commanders or quartermasters. It appears to the Secretary that the addition of pepper to the ration is practicable and desirable. The practicability of adding butter is less certain, but it is believed that under most circumstances for this army, there is no difficulty of consequence in the way of it, except the general difficulty of complicating and increasing the excessive duty of the Subsistence Department.

#### COMPANY FUND.

The "company fund" arrangement of the regulars scarcely exists, except where by chance some vigorous old army officer is in charge, and is not to be expected to answer any good purpose during the summer with the volunteers. It is useless, therefore, to point to it as a practicable means of supplying their wants.

#### SUTLERS.

Some of the camps have sutlers; most have not. At one of the sutler's tents, contrary to the articles of war as well as the army regulations, spirits were furnished the men

without restriction. This regiment being composed in large part of Continental Europeans, it was alleged that no harm had resulted, there being but little drunkenness, and but little use of the guard-house. This is also asserted with reference to all the German regiments, at one of which a considerable number of men were found sitting at a long table, under a bower which they had themselves constructed, drinking lager beer, and singing. The convivial recreation thus afforded the men was deemed by the commanding officer and by the surgeon to have a favorable effect on the health of the regiment, in which there was found less diarrhoea than at any other examined. Beer is supplied to all the Germans by sutlers, who dispose of it for a claim on the wages of the men at pay-day, as usual with sutlers. Though much less than in most armies, there is a good deal of drunkenness among the soldiers, who are generally granted leave of absence to visit the town in much too large numbers, for too long a time, and too frequently. It is suggested that the Commission apply to headquarters for an order to prevent leave of absence from camp being granted except to a limited number of any regiment at a time, and only within certain hours of the day. A further act of the military government, to close the dram-shops and bars during the hours allowed for soldiers to be out of their camps, and requiring the police guard of the city to take all soldiers without a pass or not accompanied by an officer to the guard-house, would unquestionably have a most favorable influence on the health of the army of Washington.

For the soldiers in camp, a proper enforcement of the army regulations, and a proper use of the discretion allowed the surgeons, will supply to the men all the spirits, and all the restrictions upon the use of spirits, which it is best they



should have. Whether a moderate quantity of malt liquor might not with advantage be added to the ration is possibly a question worthy of consideration by the Commission. In the few cases where it has been found to be habitually used, the testimony of the regimental surgeons is, so far as it goes, conclusive, as to its wholesome influence. (See statement of Prof. Hamilton, at the end of this Report.)

A complaint of excessive thirst is frequently heard. A number of men have stated that they drank six times as much water as they ever did before. "Too much meat," or rather a want of sufficient vegetables, is probably the chief reason of this. "Too much coffee" is another common complaint, meaning, evidently, that too much is expected of coffee, or that, without drinking more coffee than is thought to be wholesome, the appetite at breakfast is not satisfied.

It is a custom to drill the men in most regiments for two hours immediately after the break of day, and before they have had any nourishment. Many suffer much inconvenience from this. Must it not necessarily be harmful in a region at all subject to malarious influences?

#### CAMP COOKING.

Mr. Sanderson's report on camp cooking will be presented to the Commission, and the Secretary refrains from any observations at present on this most important subject. It is enough to say, that in no respect are the volunteers in so much need of instruction, advice, orders, and assistance, as in this. Perhaps the best way of meeting the difficulty would be at once to endeavor to obtain the services of sea-cooks from shipping ports, and attach them, one to a company, throughout the army.

The report of Dr. Harris will leave it unnecessary for the Resident Secretary to place his observations on camp and general hospitals at this time before the Commission. The subject of hospital supplies will need immediate attention, and when it comes up, he has certain measures to propose.

The Secretary must say, in conclusion, that he is compelled to believe that it is now hardly possible to place the volunteer army in a good defensive condition against the pestilential influences by which it must soon be surrounded. No general orders calculated to strengthen the guard against their approach can be immediately enforced with the necessary rigor. The captains, especially, have in general not the faintest comprehension of their proper responsibility ; and if they could be made to understand, they could not be made to perform the part which properly belongs to them in any purely military effort to this end. To somewhat mitigate the result is all that the Commission can hope to do. If the Commission and its agents could be at once clothed with some administrative powers, as well as exercise advisory functions, far more could be done than will otherwise be the case. To say, "you had better do so and so," will, nine times out of ten, accomplish nothing ; to report a filthy sink, or a lazy captain, or roguish sutler, to headquarters, while grand movements are pending, and efficient leaders are scarce, and the value of their minutes is as the value of years with most men, will accomplish nothing. If it were possible, without interfering with discipline, for the Commission and its agents to have a claim upon the commander of a camp for the means at his disposal for abating a nuisance within it, much could be done. This may be thought too large a power of interference to grant to civilians. But it must not be forgotten that the volun-

teers are mainly officered by men who a few weeks ago were civilians, and who, in their eagerness to learn "tactics," have hardly yet given any study to other duties. At least there should be the right to require, where the advice of the Commission is disregarded for military reasons, that those reasons should be given in writing by the commanding officer to his military superior.

Looking still to preventive measures, and neglecting in this report the whole question of the treatment of the sick and wounded, the Secretary must ask how is advice to be given so as to be at all effective? Much may be done by the distribution of manuals, by the reiteration of standing orders, and by giving more detailed and elementary instructions than are afforded in the army regulations; but it is believed that the mass of the volunteer officers cannot be reached by such means.

The Resident Secretary, in order to be able to report the condition of the volunteer forces in this vicinity and at Fort Monroe with more exactness, to the Commission, at this session, has, within a few days, accepted the voluntary services of two competent persons, who have undertaken to visit camps, and, under his instructions, to examine their condition with all practicable thoroughness. The printed questions of the Commission's Document, No. 8, have furnished the basis of inquiry. Something has been added by the Secretary to these, and each inspector is instructed to exercise his judgment in going further, but is especially enjoined to examine with his own eyes, and by smelling and tasting, whatever requires it. The value of such an investigation, in furnishing information for the Commission to act upon, can best be learned by a perusal of some of the reports made by the inspectors. But the Secretary is

inclined to believe that the greatest value will soon consist, if it does not already, in the fact, that while aiding the inspector, the attention of the regimental officers is for the first time gravely and specifically called to the sources of danger which they have allowed to be established in their camps, and which they cannot account for without acknowledging a neglect of their own, and to the information and suggestions for improvement which they will incidentally receive from the inspector. Thus far, the utmost willingness to exhibit the actual condition of their camp has been asserted, and, apparently, in good faith, by all officers called upon. The Secretary is at present of the opinion that more is to be effected in the way of prevention by this agency than by any other means at the immediate command of the Commission. The business of such inspectors, if many should be employed, will need to be carefully systematized; they must be thoroughly instructed, and should be provided with printed advice upon various subjects of camp life and military duty, to be furnished as occasion may offer to officers of different grades, to cooks, and to privates. Thus presenting themselves to make official inquiry only, they will, without special effort or intention, really be the best possible missionaries of sanitary science to the army. If there should be 300,000 men in the field—and it is thought that each regiment should be visited at least once a week, on an average—twenty men of special qualifications for the duty would probably be needed as traveling inspectors. The two last reports of the inspector who has been engaged in this vicinity, together with one from the inspector at Fort Monroe, are laid before the Commission, that the character of this service may be the better understood.

## APPENDIX.

JULY 9, 1861.

\* \* *Regiment, 1,040 strong. Colonel* \* \* \* \*  
*In camp three weeks.*

\* 1. The site of the camp \* \* \* \*. The ground high, cleared, with a neighboring shade of oaks, and of excellent natural drainage. The soil is of a compact clay, with a thin surface of arable land. There are no swamps or marshes in the neighborhood, but there is a creek which flows through the ravine, which divides the surrounding hills.

2. Its proximity to Washington and its salubrity were the probable motives of the choice of site.

6, 7. It was reported by the surgeon that a thorough inspection had been made on enlistment, and that seventy-five had been rejected. No order had been received for reinspection.

12. There is one surgeon and one assistant, father and son, who were appointed by the colonel, and have not been examined by any medical board. The \* \* \* informed me that the former had been a barber in \* \* \* , and an occasional cupper and leecher, and had no medical degree. The son's medical education was also doubted. Both had evidently failed to obtain the full confidence of the regiment. On examining the file of prescriptions at the hospital, I discovered that they were rudely written, and indicated a treatment, as they consisted chiefly of tartar emetic, ipecacuanha, and epsom salts, hardly favorable to the cure of the prevailing diarrhœa and dysenteries.

While remaining to dine in camp, the regiment returned

\* These numbers refer to the printed questions of the Sanitary Commission.



from the city, whither they had been marched to receive at the arsenal a supply of new muskets. Sometime after, a messenger came in declaring that many of the men had been left on the roadside where they had fallen exhausted with the heat and fatigue. Great excitement ensued in camp, and complaints were uttered against the colonel for having marched his men during the heat of the day, when the march might have been postponed, as its motive was not pressing, until the evening. The chief surgeon, who had remained in camp, started out to find the men who had been left behind. I followed soon after, and had not proceeded very far on the road when I met him returning to camp with his son, who had accompanied the regiment on its march. The latter, on being introduced to me by his father, said that there was nothing the matter with the men he had left behind him on the roadside but a little fatigue. I expostulated with him upon abandoning his men, and urged him, for his own sake, to return. He followed my advice, and on reaching the ground we found some forty men lying near the road. All were evidently greatly fatigued, and some half dozen were suffering from sun-stroke. With some whiskey and iced water, with which we had provided ourselves, we soon succeeded in reanimating the sick, and refreshing the rest. The chief surgeon, in the meantime, came back with a homeopathic medicine box, and began administering homeopathic doses promiscuously to the sick and well.

The two surgeons, father and son, are both Germans. The former can hardly understand a word of English, and must have great difficulty in making himself understood to many members of the regiment, one-half of whom are either Irish or Americans.

There seems some reason to doubt the competency of the surgeons of this regiment. I confess, however, that there was nothing found in the condition of the men decidedly to prove improper treatment. The number of sick was not large in comparison with that of other regiments. Six had been sent to the hospital at Washington; nine remained in the camp hospital; sixty or seventy were off duty in consequence of various ailments, and there had been no death in camp.

The general manner and conversation of the two surgeons were such as to make me distrustful of their intelligence and acquirements. My suspicion of their incompetency, however, is due chiefly to the information of \* \* \* \* \*, who earnestly urged me to report what he stated. He was, however, unwilling that his name should be used, unless he should be guaranteed against all consequences likely to affect his position.

13. No provision for transporting the sick and wounded, save a single field-stretcher.

14. A supply of medicines from the United States Government, but complained of by the surgeon as not being of the right sort. There was some doubt expressed by one of the officers of the regiment, as to whether the surgeon was supplied with all the requisite surgical instruments. The latter, however, declared that he was fully provided at his own expense.

16. The common or A tents in use, with six and often seven occupants to each. They were arranged too closely together, being not more than a foot apart. Many of them had bowers of dried bushes in front as a protection against the heat of the sun. This, however, appeared to intercept

the air, and to be unfavorable to proper cleanliness and ventilation. All were trenched, and some floored.

17. Privies at a good distance, properly constructed, and not offensive to those in camp. On inspection, however, it was discovered that the earth was not thrown in regularly, and no disinfectants used.

18. The hospital was provided with a sink especially for its patients. The men are said to bathe about once a week, but under no systematic arrangement. Many are unprovided with a change of under-clothing. There was, however, a good provision for washing, in respect to laundresses, there being several women to each company. I saw more women in and about this camp than I have seen in all the others together. The colonel had his wife, one lieutenant his, many of the soldiers theirs, &c.

19. No revaccination.

20. No varioloid or small-pox.

22. Parasites said to be rare.

23. No deaths.

24. No systematic amusements.

25. No deodorizers or disinfectants used.

26. Army rations. Complaint made of the frequency of salt pork, it being served sometimes four days in succession.

27. No fresh vegetables supplied by the Government, or by the men at their own expense.

28. No dried fruits.

29. Fresh meat two or three times a week.

30. Water from springs ; good.

31. Hospital stores abundant ; but utensils wanted, bed pans and cooking vessels.

32. No spirit ration ever issued. The sutler, however, sells spirits and lager beer *ad libitum*. The \* \* \* of

the regiment informed me that drunkenness was so prevalent that 25 or 30 men were sent daily to the guard-house in consequence.

33. Two cooks to each company, appointed by the captain.

34. The apparatus for cooking is a simple shallow trench, or two lines of brick. No lids to the cooking utensils, not even to the coffee-boilers.

35. Good bread from the city, but eaten "fresh, and often hot." Complaint of occasional meagre supply.

36. Uniform good, but too warm for the season. Each man had been supplied by the United States Government with a single pair of linen trousers.

37. Flannel underclothing worn, but often without change.

39. No India-rubber cloths. The men lie either on straw, hay, or bare ground.

40. The horses picketed at a good distance outside of the camp, and the manure removed.

43. The tents drained by means of deep trenches.

ROBERT TOMES.

JULY 5, 1861.

*\*\*th Regiment of \* \* \*, 690 men ; Col. \* \* \* ;  
25 days in camp.*

Site upon a high hill.

1. Drainage from inclination of surface, good ; subsoil clayey. Exposed to the influences of a creek and dam, but no bad effects observed.

2. Selected for salubrity and military convenience.

6. No examination before enlistment. Partial inspection since, according to general order, and eighteen rejected. among whom was a man in an advanced state of pulmonary consumption.

11. The most perfect hospital organization yet observed—provided with a steward and two matrons, where female tenderness and care were evident in the kindly treatment and good order of the patients.

12. A surgeon and assistant surgeon, appointed in the usual way of the volunteers, through influence of colonel, and subsequently confirmed by a medical board.

13. One ambulance supplied by \* \* \* \* \*, and one horse-litter by the Government. The latter badly constructed, and pronounced by the surgeon to be useless. It is made for two horses, with a shaft in front and one behind. The irregular action of the animals and their necessary restlessness would appear to justify the surgeon's condemnation.

14. A deficiency of surgical instruments, there being but one amputating case and one pocket case for the two surgeons, supplied by the United States Government.

15. No sun-stroke and no endemic disease.

16. Common tents, mostly floored. Eight occupants to each.

17. Trenches dug for privies, but no cross-bars for support; very offensive; no earth thrown in, and much too near camp. No disinfectants used.

18. Frequent bathing, but infrequent washing of underclothes.

19. Vaccination in progress. I saw the surgeon thus employed.



20. One case of small-pox, sent to eruptive hospital of Washington.

21. Thirty-eight cases of measles. Mild, and no serious sequelæ observed.

22. Some cases of diarrhœa and dysentery. Body lice on some of the men. Tincture of larkspur used, but found ineffectual; probably of bad quality.

23. One death from drowning.

24. No systematic amusements, but men cheerful.

25. No disinfectants used, and not demanded by the surgeon, on the score that the bulk required would impede marching.

26. Ordinary army rations. No complaint of quality and quantity.

27. No vegetables, except those supplied by the men at their own expense. I saw cabbage and potatoes in use, here and there.

27, *b*. The surgeon has no anti-scorbutics, but would wish to have them, as he attributes the diarrhœas and dysenteries to scorbutic influences.

28. No dried fruits.

29. Fresh meat three or four times a week.

30. Water good, from springs.

31. Medicines and hospital stores good.

32. No spirit ration issued, and the sutler discharged for selling liquor.

33, 34. In the cooking department all is rude. A *good captain* has, however, made an attempt towards improvement. He has provided his company with an ordinary house cooking-stove, but he makes the mistake of changing his cooks, who are selected from among the men. This

company, however, is comparatively much better off than any of the others, and by its saving of rations and acquired handiness was enabled to provide a banquet on the Fourth of July, at the expense of the members, to which the whole regiment was invited. This company's street and tents gave evidence, by extreme cleanliness and well-ordered condition, of the excellent superintendence of the captain, to whose high character the surgeon bore strong testimony. The culinary utensils being without covers, were complained of by the cooks. Three cooks to each company.

35. Bread good, and from the city.

36. Uniform *worthless*.

37. Good and abundant underclothing.

38. Shoes good.

39. Blankets and overcoats bad. No India-rubber cloths.

42. Refuse food sold.

43. Tents surrounded with trenches.

ROBERT TOMES.

*\*\*th Regiment* \* \* \* ; 787 strong; Colonel \* \* \*

1. The situation of the camp is upon a fine plain, intersected by occasional ravines, terminating in salt meadows and sea-shore. The natural drainage excellent. The camp is perhaps one-fourth of a mile from the beach, and between it and the water there is a comfortable house, which affords good hospital accommodations, and quarters for quartermaster and chaplain.

2. Both military and sanitary considerations seem to have been well answered in the selection.

7. The regiment arrived here with 851—the present number, 787. No order has been received from headquar-

ters for a re-examination. The number of men sent home for physical disability is thirteen.

10. No orders have been received in reference to sanitary condition of the men.

11. A regimental hospital has been organized, with a steward and one nurse permanently detailed. The appearance of the rooms and patients do not indicate an energetic administration. The men lie on mattresses upon the floor, with no linen, no sheets, or pillow cases. They lie in the same clothing, even under garments, with which they left New York. I believe there is no substitution of hospital comforts for the usual rations. Fortunately, the number of regular hospital inmates is small.

12. One surgeon and an assistant are attached to the regiment, who were appointed by a Medical Commission at Albany.

13. The regiment has only one ambulance—an excellent one—and one field stretcher, besides those attached to the ambulance.

14. A medicine chest and a hospital case were furnished by the State of New York. A surgical knapsack is needed, as are many other important appliances.

16. The encampment is perfectly free from any unpleasant odor. The cooking places are neat, and no garbage is seen. Surface drains have been cut in every direction necessary to remove all surface water, except in one or two places, which were to-day being attended to. The tents are all floored, and the boards are kept clean, while the clothing, knapsacks, arms, &c., are arranged so as to present an appearance of tidiness and comfort. The officers are supplied with a tent called the "Crimean." Eight wedge tents, three "Sibley," and one "Crimean," are the

supply for a company. Ten men occupy one of the wedge tents, and are undoubtedly too crowded. There is no order as to the closing of tents at night. They are closed or not according to the inclinations of the men. They sometimes sleep on the ground. The officers seem quite awake to the necessity of camp police.

17. The sinks for officers and men are formed at such a distance from camp as to be unobjectionable. The one belonging to officers seems to have been properly attended to by a fresh layer of soil daily thrown upon the surface. The one for men has been prepared with reference to such case, but seems not to have been quite properly attended to. However, the order was promptly given in my presence to secure the requisite attention. The men are strictly confined to the use of the sinks. A sink for garbage is also prepared and used.

18. There is excellent bathing upon the beach, which the men generally are inclined to enjoy; but the adjutant informed me that as all are not so, the acting colonel has issued orders to form the companies into squads for the purpose, so that each man will be compelled to wash at least twice a week. The men look bright and well, and seem to be in excellent health and spirits.

19. The men have all been revaccinated.

20. There has been no varioloid or small-pox.

21. There have been three cases of measles.

22. There have been no cases of intermittent fever. The men have been somewhat troubled with vermin.

23. There have been seven deaths, all either in battle or from wounds.

24. No attention seems to have been given to providing

amusements for the men. Before the weather became so warm they sometimes played at "foot ball."

25. No disinfectants have been used or found necessary.

26. The regular army ration is received from the quartermaster of the post, and is of excellent quality.

27. Fresh vegetables have not been supplied to any amount. They cannot at present be obtained in this vicinity. No case of scurvy has occurred. The system of the company fund has not been carried out, except in a few cases. Some of the companies live well, and always have plenty, while others are always in want. It is not uncommon for a company to be entirely out of certain articles a day or two, at the end of the ten days for which the rations are issued. Others have a plentiful supply. The reason of the difference is in the varying skill of those who have charge of the cooking and the administration of the stores after they reach the company. The captains are, it is believed, mainly in fault, either from want of ability or from indolence; although it is easy to perceive that one faithful and industrious officer may not be able to prevent the effect of a want of those qualities among those under him. I wish still to pursue this line of investigation, both in this and other regiments. One thing seems pretty certain in this case, there is no want of promptness or faithfulness in the quartermaster's department, and no deficiency in the quantity or quality of the food furnished. There have been no extra issues of anti-scorbutics.

28. Dried fruits have not been issued.

29. Fresh meat is supplied three times in ten days.

30. The water is quite good, but not entirely free from qualities injurious or disturbing when taken in large quantities.



32. No spirit ration is issued.

33. The cooks are sometimes hired by the companies ; in other cases they are detailed from the ranks.

34. The apparatus used for cooking is the open fire beneath kettles suspended by hooks from an iron bar.

35. The soft bread, which is excellent, is supplied every other day from the post bakery.

36. The men were supplied with one suit of clothing from the State of New York, but with no change of underclothing.

37. The regiment has never been supplied with a change of underclothing. Not only in the case of this regiment but of all in the neighborhood, the want of underclothing is likely to be productive of great suffering and loss of efficiency.

38. This regiment is well supplied with overcoats, blankets, and rubber blankets.

39. The average age of the men is about twenty-five years. There are but few over thirty, and only two less than nineteen.

I have ascertained that the men of this regiment have not yet been paid for their services from the time they were accepted by the State of New York until they were mustered into the service of the United States. This is a great shame and hardship, as they have yet received no wages from Government, and many of them have no means with which to procure any comforts at their own expense.

The chaplain and other officers are receiving great numbers of letters from friends of men in the ranks inquiring about them, and from many others on the *business* of the *writers*, all of which, though prepaid, require stamps upon the answers. These gentlemen not receiving their pay

from the State or the Government are having their pockets drained of their scanty supply of money in this thoughtless manner.

The "havelocks" seem to be of little use ; they are soon laid aside. A supply of white cotton gloves is desirable to protect the musket from rust, from being handled with moist hands.

But of all the sufferings of our brave volunteers, the one most terrible seems to me that of being confined in hospital with the same filthy clothing that they have worn through all their hot marches, rolled in the blankets that have served them since their enrolment.

The poor fellows of \* \* \* \* have not had even blankets since June 1st. About 400 blankets are wanted there.

E. J. DUNNING.

*Memorandum of Professor F. H. Hamilton, Surgeon of 31st Regiment N. Y. S. V.*

We have about 850 men. Two companies are composed mostly of Germans, men accustomed to out-door work; three quarters of the remainder were out-door laborers. We are situated on Park Heights, with an abundance of pure water and of air. No malaria. Since we encamped at this place, a period of about ten days, we have had no vegetables, except once or twice a few onions. The meats have been excellent, but generally salt. We have now a daily report of about fifty cases of diarrhœa and dysentery, which are steadily increasing. The camp is perfectly clean, and the latrines are covered daily. We have no drills between 9 or 10 o'clock a. m. and 5 p. m. The Germans who drink

“lager” furnish the fewest cases of diarrhœa. Indeed, those who can get lager are seldom reported. I allow one quarter cask of lager to every 24 men per day. The men subscribe for it under directions of the captains. The Germans are accustomed to drink much more per day, but this answers the medicinal purpose which I have in view. It regulates the bowels, prevents constipation, and becomes in this way a valuable substitute for vegetables. I encourage all the men to take it moderately, but most of them have no money to pay for it.

Whiskey, brandy, and the wines, unless I except clarets, vin ordinaire, &c., are, I think, pernicious.

FRANK H. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon 31st Reg. N. Y. S. V.*

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RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY SANITARY COMMITTEE  
IN SESSION, MONDAY, JULY 29, AND ORDERED TO  
BE SENT TO THE PRESIDENT, HEADS OF THE  
DEPARTMENTS, AND TO BOTH HOUSES OF CON-  
GRESS.

*Resolved*, That the Sanitary Commission, in their endeavors to promote temperance, cleanliness, and comfort among the troops, have become convinced that the first sanitary law in camp and among soldiers is *military* discipline; and that unless this is vigorously asserted and enforced, it is useless to attempt and impossible to effect, by any secondary means, the great end they propose—which is the health and happiness of the army.

*Resolved*, That looking only to the health and comfort of the troops, it is our profound conviction that any special

relaxation of military discipline in favor of volunteer troops, based either upon their supposed unwillingness or inability to endure it, or upon the alleged expectation of the public, is a fallacious policy, and fraught with peril to the lives of the men and the success of the national cause; and that, speaking in the name of the families and the communities from which the volunteers come, and in the name of humanity and religion, we implore that the most thorough system of military discipline be carried out with the officers and men of the volunteer force, as the first and essential condition of their health, comfort, and morality.

*Resolved*, That the health and comfort and efficiency of the men is mainly dependent on the uninterrupted presence, the personal watchfulness, and the rigid authority of the regimental and company officers; and that all the great defects, whether in the commissariat or in the police of camps, are radically due to the absence of officers from their posts and to the laxity of the discipline to which they are themselves accustomed—a laxity which would never be tolerated among regulars, and which, while tolerated among our soldiers, will make our force a crowd of armed men rather than an army.

*Resolved*, That it is the public conviction of this Commission, that the soldiers themselves, *in their painful experience of the want of leaders and protectors*, would heartily welcome a rigid discipline exerted over their officers and themselves; that the public would hail with joy the inauguration of a decisive, prompt, and rigid rule, extending alike to officers and men; and that any despondency or doubt connected with our military and national prospects, or with the health and security of our troops, would disappear with the first

indications of rigid order enforced with impartial authority throughout the whole army.

*Resolved*, That the Sanitary Commission assure Major General McClellan in advance, of all the moral support and sympathy of their numerous constituents, and beg him to believe that the humane, the intelligent, the religious, the patriotic, will uphold his hands in every endeavor to communicate a spirit of subordination, fidelity, and obedience to the troops, even by resort, if found necessary, to the utmost rigor of military law, believing that the health, comfort, and efficiency of the army are all united in their dependence on a strict, uniform, and all-pervading military discipline.

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## A RECORD OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS OF THE SANITARY COMMISSION, PASSED IN THE SECOND, THIRD, AND FOURTH SESSIONS.

### SECOND SESSION.

1. WHEREAS, instances of great suffering from the exposure of troops arriving at Washington, have come to the knowledge of the Sanitary Commission:

*Resolved*, That the Commission recommend to the War Department to immediately provide temporary accommodations near the railroad station at Washington, for the use of troops arriving and departing.

2. *Resolved*, That the Secretaries of the Sanitary Commission be instructed to inquire of the Secretary of the Treasury, whether some system cannot be adopted by which the soldiers can secure their wages, at their option, in gold



or silver, or by allotment, to be transmitted to their families, and that they use all diligence in showing the moral bearing of such a measure on the health of the troops, and the comfort and self-respect of their households.

3. *Resolved*, That the existence of many commodious marine hospitals, now very little in use, offers a natural and ready resource for the Government in any lack of military hospital room, and that the conversion of those spare beds to military uses is suggested to the immediate consideration of the United States authorities.

4. *Resolved*, That the Resident Secretary suggest to the Government the desirableness and practicability of furnishing butter as a ration in place of its equivalent value in other articles at all places where regular and rapid communication by water or rail exists, and that the detail of a plan to this end be drawn up to accompany the suggestion.

5. *Resolved*, That Dr. Harris, Dr. Van Buren, Prof. Gibbs, and Dr. Agnew, be a committee to prepare and issue a circular letter to the commanding and medical officers of regiments upon the subject of camp police, and that Dr. Harris be requested to procure for the letter such authorization as may be expedient from the Medical Bureau of the War Department.

#### THIRD SESSION.

6. *Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to call upon the Paymaster General, and ascertain from him if, under existing laws, it is practicable for soldiers generally to remit a portion of their pay in the form of checks to their families at a distance, and, if this is not possible, what are the objections understood to exist in the mind of the Paymaster General to the enactment of such a provision; and, if it

shall appear to the committee that such an arrangement is unprovided for in a proper manner, and that no sufficient objections exist to its being made, that the committee be requested to lay before the Commission the draft of a memorial to Congress on the subject. It was determined that the committee should be the committee of the whole, and it was agreed that at 1½ o'clock p. m., this day, the Commission will call in a body on the Paymaster General with this subject in hand.

7. *Resolved*, That this Commission take immediate measure to procure the introduction of a suitable clause into the army bill, to provide for the establishment or employment of a competent cook in every company in the volunteer regiments.

8. *Resolved*, In view of the mischief done to the physical health of the soldiers of the volunteer regiments, by improvident expenditure of their pay; the wants of those dependent on them, who are in danger of becoming a public burden and creating a vast pauper element in our cities and elsewhere; the danger of the war becoming unpopular in consequence, and the prospect of systematic private speculations in the soldiers' pay:

That the Commission earnestly recommend the passage of a law for the issue of Treasury Notes for the payment of volunteers, in sums of five dollars and upwards; and that each soldier and non-commissioned officer receive his pay, in whole or in part, in such Treasury Notes, at his option. And in case Congress should consider the above scheme impracticable, then that the Commission earnestly and most respectfully commend the subject of the mode of paying the soldiers to the consideration of Congress, and pray that it

will enact such measures as may seem best for the remedy of the evils and dangers above indicated.

9. *Resolved*, That the Commission respectfully and most earnestly recommend to Congress, as an important means of preserving the health of the volunteer regiments, and averting the danger of disease, with which all newly-organized troops are threatened, to make provision by law for the enlistment or selection, in each company, of a cook, in addition to the detail from the ranks at present provided for. That said cook shall receive the pay of a musician, and one ration per day, and be a non-combatant.

10. *Resolved*, That the Secretary be requested to open a complaint book, in which shall be entered all violations of the army regulations, and all other abuses reported by the agents of the Commission, or by other responsible authorities, and that such complaints be reported from time to time, in writing, to the General-in-chief.

11. *Resolved*, That the Commission respectfully suggest to General Mansfield the propriety of an order directing the commanders of forces encamped near the city of Washington, not to grant leave of absence from camp to more than one-eighth part of their command on the same day, and to give no leave under which men shall be absent from their camps after the hour of one o'clock p. m., or of such general order as in his judgment may seem best adapted to cure the abuses and irregularities that arise from the too liberal granting of leave of absence; also, that he issue an order forbidding the sale of intoxicating drink in the city of Washington, except by hotels to their boarders, before the hour of one o'clock, p. m.

12. *Resolved*, That copies of the reports of the sanitary inspectors appointed by the Commission be communicated

to the Governors of the several States to which the regiments respectively belong. It is understood that the Secretary of the Commission may exercise his discretion as to the communication of answers believed to be confidential, or specially affecting the character and position of individuals.

13. *Resolved*, That Dr. Van Buren confer with the chief of the commissariat, and communicate to that department the views of this Commission on the subject of the following communication :

SANITARY COMMISSION, *July 12, 1861.*

To the COMMISSARY GENERAL :

SIR: It having come to the knowledge of the Sanitary Commission, from trustworthy sources, that the surgeons of the volunteers are unable to get the rations of the sick commuted by the commissaries, and are, therefore, unable to procure proper food for them, the Sanitary Commission respectfully request of the Commissary Department to take such action as will secure proper attention to regulations by the commissaries, and their rights to the sick.

Respectfully,

FRED. LAW OLMSTED,

*Resident Secretary.*

14. On motion, it was ordered that the suggestions of the Surgeon General respecting the employment of nurses, as stated in a letter from the Medical Bureau to the Secretary, be carried out by this Commission, and that Miss Dix be informed of the purpose and wish of the Commission on this subject.

15. The following action was taken upon the question of varying and commuting rations:

Whereas the company fund relied upon by the regulars for varying their rations, is generally unavailable under the circumstances of the volunteer; therefore, it is recommended that a larger and more varied supply of vegetable food, either fresh or desiccated, be steadily secured to the volunteers by a new regulation in their favor of the army ration; it is also recommended, that one-eighth of a pound of butter be added to the daily ration, between the 1st of October and the 1st of May, and whenever else it is found practicable.

16. *Resolved*, That the Central Finance Committee in the city of New York, for the Sanitary Commission, be authorized to audit all bills and accounts of the treasurer of this Commission.

#### FOURTH SESSION.

17. *Resolved*, That the Sanitary Commission, in their endeavors to promote temperance, cleanliness, and comfort among the troops, have become convinced that the first sanitary law in camp and among soldiers is *military* discipline; and that unless this is vigorously asserted and enforced, it is useless to attempt and impossible to effect, by any secondary means, the great end they propose—which is the health and happiness of the army.

18. *Resolved*, That looking only to the health and comfort of the troops, it is our profound conviction that any special relaxation of military discipline in favor of volunteer troops, based either upon their supposed unwillingness or inability to endure it, or upon the alleged expectation of the public, is a fallacious policy, and fraught with peril to the lives of the men and the success of the national cause; and that, speaking in the name of the families and the communities from which the volunteers come, and in the name



of humanity and religion, we implore that the most thorough system of military discipline be carried out with the officers and men of the volunteer force, as the first and essential condition of their health, comfort, and morality.

19. *Resolved*, That the health and comfort and efficiency of the men is mainly dependent on the uninterrupted presence, the personal watchfulness, and the rigid authority of the regimental and company officers ; and that all the great defects, whether in the commissariat or in the police of camps, are radically due to the absence of officers from their posts and to the laxity of the discipline to which they are themselves accustomed—a laxity which would never be tolerated among regulars, and which, while tolerated among our soldiers, will make our force a crowd of armed men rather than an army.

20. *Resolved*, That it is the public conviction of this Commission, that the soldiers themselves, *in their painful experience of the want of leaders and protectors*, would heartily welcome a rigid discipline exerted over their officers and themselves ; that the public would hail with joy the inauguration of a decisive, prompt, and rigid rule, extending alike to officers and men ; and that any despondency or doubt connected with our military and national prospects, or with the health and security of our troops, would disappear with the first indications of rigid order enforced with impartial authority throughout the whole army.

21. *Resolved*, That the Sanitary Commission assure Major General McClellan in advance, of all the moral support and sympathy of their numerous constituents, and beg him to believe that the humane, the intelligent, the religious, the patriotic, will uphold his hands in every endeavor to communicate a spirit of subordination, fidelity, and obedience

to the troops, even by resort, if found necessary, to the utmost rigor of military law, believing that the health, comfort, and efficiency of the army are all united in their dependence on a strict, uniform, and all-pervading military discipline.

22. *Resolved*, That the following articles be procured for immediate use in the general hospitals : 100 small tables for writing in bed, 100 iron wire cradles for protecting wounded limbs, 30 backgammon boards, 30 boxes of dominoes, 30 checker-boards, 5 pounds of Delphinium.

23. *Resolved*, That no article of clothing or other supplies shall be issued except upon the order of the Commission, or the order of the resident secretary when the Commission is not in session, and that in every instance receipts shall be taken therefor from the medical officers supplied, and that all such articles be distinctly marked with the stamp of the Sanitary Commission.

24. *Resolved*, That a barber be employed by the Commission for the service of volunteers in hospitals.

25. *Resolved*, That a committee, to be appointed, inquire into the feasibility of having some substitute for a grave-stone placed at the burial place of each volunteer dying in general hospital, to bear his name, rank, and date of death.

26. *Resolved*, That the medical purveyor be respectfully authorized to direct that a ticket bearing the name, rank, regiment, company, and disease of each patient in general hospital, together with date of his admission, be placed at the head of his bed, or in some conspicuous place in its vicinity, as early as practicable.

27. *Resolved*, That it be referred to the committee on hospitals, to consider and report whether it be expedient to establish a military hospital in Washington or elsewhere,

under the direction of the Commission ; and if they deem it expedient, to report further what should be the site and capacity of such hospital, and what would be the expense of its erection and maintenance, and to report plans and estimates for such hospital building, and that Drs. Van Buren and Agnew be such committee.

28. *Resolved*, That it be referred to a committee to inquire and report what action, if any, can be taken by the Sanitary Commission to improve the condition of the general hospitals at Georgetown, Alexandria, and elsewhere.

29. *Resolved*, That Dr. Newberry be requested to give himself up to the superintendence of inspection of our labor in the West—visiting the different sections, conferring with and aiding our local inspectors, and reporting weekly to Washington the results of his general observations and reflections upon the best methods of promoting the objects of the Commission in that quarter.

30. *Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to draw up and present to the Sanitary Commission, during its present session, a report on the best methods of improving the morale of the volunteer and militia forces. (Messrs. Gibbs, Strong, and Van Buren were appointed such committee.)

31. *Resolved*, That the same committee be requested to report upon the best means of promoting cheerfulness, and healthy mental and physical recreation among the volunteer and militia forces.

32. *Resolved*, That the Recording Secretary be requested to collect and arrange the resolutions passed by the Sanitary Commission at its different meetings, and print the same as a document of the Commission, and that, in future, all such

resolutions shall be collected and printed at the close of each session.

33. *Resolved*, That the Sanitary Commission cordially approve of the substitute for yeast prepared by the Rumford Chemical Works under the patent of Professor Horsford, and recommend the use of this material in the preparation of bread for the volunteer and militia forces.

34. *Resolved*, That it is expedient to add to the Commission an additional member from New England, and that the Right Rev. Thomas C. Clark, Bishop of Rhode Island, be appointed such a commissioner; also that it is expedient to add to the Commission one member from Pennsylvania, and that \_\_\_\_\_ be so appointed.

35. *Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to prepare a list of graduates of West Point who have resigned from the army, and who are probably available for military command, and that the committee be instructed to prepare such list, without aiming at the minute accuracy, which might interfere with prompt action, and that they be authorized to furnish their results in such form as may seem to them appropriate, correcting the list, if practicable, by a circular, to be addressed to the graduates.

The President, Professor Bache, and Col. G. W. Cullum were appointed such committee.

36. *Resolved*, That the Sanitary Commission urgently recommend the establishment of receiving stations at New York, Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and Baltimore, and at various points in the West, so that troops upon their arrival in those cities may, in case of necessity, be provided with lodging, and with well prepared and nutritious food; also with facilities for washing, and for attention to the calls of nature.

37. *Resolved*, That the Resident Secretary be instructed to organize, under the special charge of one of the inspectors, a system in each of the hospitals of this military district, (and, as far as possible, in all others,) by which the wounded soldiers shall be enabled to communicate by letter with their friends : and to secure also such comfort from reading and being read to as their condition and the rules of the hospitals allow.

38. *Resolved*, That it be recommended that in each hospital the steward, ward master, or intelligent convalescents be made the agents and instruments of the Commission in accomplishing this work ; that to one of them be specially committed a store of stationery, marked with the stamp of the Commission, and either franked or furnished with postage stamps when the use of the congressional privilege is not preferred by the soldier ; that this agent be required to make a daily record of every letter written, and every hour of reading done, and a weekly report of the same to the inspector.

39. *Resolved*, That the Bible and such religious books as the soldiers may ask for, or such as represent their denominational relations, be always recommended and read when acceptable to the sick, but not to the exclusion of works of entertainment, newspapers, &c.

40. *Resolved*, That the Barber be under the superintendence of the same inspector, and make weekly reports to him.

41. *Resolved*, That the proprietors of leading newspapers and periodicals be earnestly requested to furnish as many copies of each issue as their benevolence and ability may prompt, directed in bundles to our address, for the use of the sick in the hospitals.

42. *Resolved*, That the Resident Secretary be authorized



and advised to cause to be published an abstract of those sections of the army regulations which relate especially to the sanitary interests of the soldier.

43. *Resolved*, That \$25 a month for two months from the present date be appropriated for the washing of the clothing of volunteers entering the general hospital at Columbia College; the surgeon in charge (Dr. Abadie, U. S. A.) to give receipt for the same. Also that \$20 per month for the same period be appropriated for the Seminary hospital, Georgetown; the surgeon in charge (Dr. Smith, U. S. A.) giving receipt for the same; and both of these gentlemen undertaking to superintend the disbursement of the money.

44. *Resolved*, That the report and recommendations of the hospital committee be accepted and adopted, and that the same be referred back to the committee for revision and amplification; and that the committee cause the same, when complete, to be printed and circulated as a document of the Commission; and that copies thereof be sent to the Secretary of War, and to the Medical and Quartermaster's departments.

45. *Resolved*, That Dr. Harris is hereby requested to visit the military depots at Albany, Elmira, and Harrisburg, for the purposes of sanitary inspection and the improvement of their condition and the troops assembled at those places, and to report upon the same at the next meeting of the Commission.

46. *Resolved*, That the Commission recognizes no official relation with any persons except the officers of Government and its own associates and employés.

47. *Resolved*, That the members of the Sanitary Commission resident at Washington be a committee to call at an early day upon Major General McClellan, and assure him

of their desire to coöperate with him in every possible manner in securing the good discipline, health, and efficiency of the troops; also to explain to him the ends and methods of the Commission, ask his favorable consideration, his frank counsel, and his powerful assistance in the objects of the Commission.

48. *Resolved*, That the same committee be instructed to obtain from the General, if possible, the direction of the receiving depots of troops, subject to understood conditions of receiving it.

49. *Resolved*, That resolution sixteen be, and hereby is, rescinded, and that it be ordered, that when important defects or mismanagement affecting the sanitary condition of any regiment shall be reported by the Sanitary Inspectors, the facts shall be communicated to the Governor of the State from which the officers shall have received their appointment, unless the information shall appear to have been furnished to the Commission confidentially.

50. *Resolved*, That the Commission has reason to believe that personal visits to the soldiers from the Governors of States and other eminent men, with words of sympathy, encouragement, and well-deserved praise, are of most essential service, and that the Commission suggests that the regimental bands should be instructed to give occasional concerts to the soldiers; that dress parades shall be held in Pennsylvania avenue or elsewhere, to be attended by members of the cabinet and high officials; that when it is convenient the position of the regiments should be occasionally shifted some distance, and that so far as practicable and consistent with official propriety, the officers of the General Government shall continue to show a lively and personal interest in the welfare of the troops.

51. *Resolved*, That the thanks of the Commission are due to Dr. Harris, for his devotion to the interests of the Commission, and for the zeal and fidelity with which he has discharged his duties; and that the duties of corresponding and recording secretary are hereby united to the duties of the Resident Secretary.

52. *Resolved*, That the Sanitary Commission have observed with great satisfaction, during their official visits to the general hospitals, the intelligent devotion of the medical officers of the army to their respective duties, and the commendable means with which they have commenced the organization of military hospitals under extraordinary difficulties.

53. *Resolved*, That the report of the committee on West Point graduates be referred back to the committee, authority to make such additions and changes as may be approved by them; to have their report, thus finally prepared, printed, and to circulate the list of names of graduates probably available for the military service.

54. *Resolved*, That the report from the committee on the preservation of records of deaths and interments be accepted or recommitted to the chairman of the committee, with directions to procure the adoption of a plan for such registration.

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#### ORIGIN AND OBJECTS OF THE COMMISSION.

The following statement of the considerations which led to the appointment of this Commission by the War Department, of the purposes to which its funds are applied, and

of the work it hopes to accomplish if adequately sustained by the public, is intended for the satisfaction of those who may be invited to aid it by contributions of money or otherwise.

#### I.—ORIGIN OF THE COMMISSION.

The important duty of devising measures for the protection of the health of the United States army, and for its preservation from the diseases to which soldiers are peculiarly exposed, belongs to a branch of the War Department known as the Medical Bureau, by which it has always been executed with ability and success.

At an early stage of the war, however, it became manifest that the large and sudden increase of the army must throw on this Bureau an amount of work to which it was necessarily unequal.

Having been organized with reference to the wants of an army of only a few thousand men, it was likely to be most seriously embarrassed in its operations when called on to provide for a newly-levied force of several hundred thousand—especially as both officers and men of these hastily assembled regiments were mostly without experience, and required immediate and extraordinary instruction and supervision to save them from the consequences of exposure, malaria, unwholesome food, and the other perils of camp life.

These are practically the gravest and most formidable dangers to which soldiers in actual service are exposed. Under the most favorable conditions an army loses, in the course of a campaign, at least four times as many men by disease as by the casualties of actual warfare. Among newly levied and inexperienced soldiers the ratio is much

larger. Neglect of sanitary precautions in camp, quarters, and hospitals, is almost inevitably followed by epidemics, the appearance of which may paralyze the operations of a whole army, and result in a public calamity more serious than the loss of a great battle.

In view of this danger, and of the pressure upon the Medical Bureau arising from the increase and the active employment of the regular army, the War Department decided to appoint a commission to aid and coöperate with it in providing for the sanitary interests of the newly-raised volunteer forces. This step was taken on the suggestion of the Acting Surgeon General, and with the formal approval of the President.

A copy of the order appointing the Commission is annexed.

## II.—OBJECTS OF THE COMMISSION.

These are generally indicated by the order of the Secretary of War. But those who are invited to contribute to its support are entitled to a more specific statement of the objects to which their contributions will be applied.

The employment of sanitary agents or inspectors to reside in or near the several great military centres is deemed of great importance. Of these six have been already employed and are in the field, at various points from the Chesapeake to the Missouri. If the Commission were provided with means to employ twenty instead of six, the community at large would thereby probably save ten times the additional outlay. These inspectors act under detailed instructions and make weekly reports to the resident secretary of the Commission, (Frederick L. Olmsted, esq.,) at Washington. Their duties are, generally, to visit the



camps, barracks, quarters, and regimental hospitals, systematically and regularly, with a view to discover and remedy defects in their drainage, ventilation, &c., in the quality of the food and water supplied the men, in the system (if any) of camp cooking, in clothing, camp police, medicines, bedding, and hospital stores, in the supply of disinfectants, and in every other particular by which the health of the troops can be affected. It is the natural and excusable ignorance of a very large proportion of our newly-appointed volunteer officers on these and other sanitary points, and the fact that they do not appreciate the immense importance of attending to them daily and systematically, which constitute the chief source of peril to our troops. Officers generally take it for granted that their duty toward their men begins and ends with drill and parade, forgetting that camp disease is by far the most dangerous enemy they have to fear, and at the same time the only enemy against which vigilance and precaution are almost certain of success. It is believed that the constant attention and care of intelligent and educated inspectors charged with the sole duty of watching over the sanitary condition of camps, &c., and of calling the attention of officers and men to the serious defects that are almost invariably found there, is the only available remedy for this evil.

The inspectors thus far employed are members of the medical profession, of high standing, and have made sanitary science a special pursuit. The actual and necessary expenses of each while engaged in his duties (travelling included) cannot be estimated at a rate less than fifteen hundred dollars per annum. Though they are clothed with no official power to order the correction of the evils they find existing, their advice and suggestions have generally

been thus far gratefully received and promptly carried out, at least for the time. Even with the small number of agents the Commission has thus far been enabled to employ, great good has been effected, many abuses have been corrected, and (it is confidently believed) many lives have been saved.

Resident agents are also needed to act as inspectors of the general hospitals at Washington and elsewhere. One has been appointed and is now engaged in his duties. These are analogous to those required of the camp inspectors, and with the additional charge of seeing that the volunteers, while in hospital, have all the care and comfort that professional skill, good nursing, and intelligent liberality can give them. Funds are also required to supply both general and regimental hospitals with various surgical and other appliances, (and, if possible, with comforts,) which the Medical Department does not supply—such as waterbeds, wire frames to keep bed clothes from contact with wounded limbs, and other articles well known in private surgical and medical practice. Extra hospital clothing, additional supplies, and model appliances have already been provided by the Commission as liberally as the funds under its control would justify. Large supplies of ice for the hospitals (furnished by private liberality) have been forwarded to Washington at the expense of the Commission, and most thankfully received.

Though the hospital stores furnished by Government are abundant, and excellent of their kind, the list of articles it provides has been, of course, made up with reference solely to the wants of the regular army. But among the rank and file of our volunteers are to be found representatives from every class in society, including many to whom certain additional comforts are matter of necessity, the want of which

retards convalescence, if it do not prevent recovery, and those comforts the Commission hopes to be enabled in some degree to provide, without distinction, to all who need them.

The Commission proposes also to distribute among officers and men, printed rules for the preservation of health in camp, calling their attention particularly to the various points already alluded to as involving danger. It will also issue from time to time other publications, intended to direct the attention of the military authorities to such sanitary reforms and improvements as experience and observation may suggest.

It is in constant receipt of supplies of stores, clothing, and other articles contributed by patriotic individuals and associations throughout the country, which involve large outlay for expense of transportation and storage.

It will be called upon to pay the wages of male nurses for the hospitals, and sundry other necessary expenses not provided by Government.

Other minor sources of expense, such as advertising, insurance, telegraphing, postage, clerk-hire, &c., need not be specified.

It will be perceived that the chief objects for which funds are required are the employment of camp and hospital inspectors, the supply of certain extra hospital appliances, and the printing and circulation of documents.

For these purposes, and supposing the inspectors to receive compensation at the rate of six hundred dollars per annum over and above their necessary expenses,\* and that

\* Most of the inspectors thus far employed have consented to serve without compensation beyond their actual expenses, but it is hardly to be hoped that a sufficient number of educated and competent men can be found who will labor effectively and permanently on these terms.

twenty-five are employed by the Commission, (and a smaller number cannot do the work required,) an annual expenditure of not less than sixty thousand dollars is required.

It is for the community to decide whether it can or will furnish this large sum, and whether it will not, in the end, save money by enabling the Commission to do its work thoroughly and efficiently.

It should be remembered that the life of every soldier who dies of disease, which sanitary precautions could have averted, is simply wasted, or worse than wasted, since others must be withdrawn from duty to provide for his wants during his illness. Each of our volunteers (regarded from the lowest possible point of view) represents a certain considerable amount of mere money value to the nation at large, and this value is steadily increasing day by day, as he gains experience in his daily duties. If he is allowed to perish because he has no one to advise him or his officers that a camp badly policed is sure to breed a pestilence—that the air within an ill-ventilated tent is converted into poisonous gas—and that ill-cooked or ill-kept food will produce dysentery—the community which permits him so to perish for want of advice and help, and which (in many cases) burdens itself, moreover, with the support of a destitute family, is, to say the least, guilty of reckless extravagance, peculiarly inexpedient at the present time. No economy can be more effective in the prosecution of the present just and necessary war than an exacting, vigilant, and scrupulous economy of the health and life of every volunteer soldier we send into the field.

With sufficient means at its command, the Commission, cordially sustained as it is by the authorities at Washington, can do much to promote this great national object.



It is to be borne in mind, however, that the seeds of mischief are already sown, by months of negligence and disregard of sanitary precautions. It is to be feared that these will soon bear their legitimate fruit, and that we shall hear of epidemics in our camps, and malignant forms of disease in the General Hospitals. It is probably too late to completely avert these evils. What the Commission has already done—though necessarily on a limited scale—will no doubt diminish their severity; and during the few weeks that are still left before the perilous fall months are upon us, the Commission hopes to make still further progress, and do much to mitigate the evils by which the army is threatened. The extent to which it shall be able to do so depends mainly on the amount of means which the community shall place at its disposal.

### III.—AID FROM GOVERNMENT.

It has been suggested that the Commission ought to look to Government for the money it requires, instead of appealing to private liberality.

This question was fully considered by the Commission at its meetings held in Washington before and during the late session of Congress. It came to the conclusion that the application to Congress for pecuniary aid was for many reasons inexpedient.

Among these reasons were the following: The Commission has little or no official power, and can accomplish its objects only through whatever moral weight and influence it may possess. These would be impaired if not destroyed, in public estimation at least, were the Commission to appear among the crowds that fill the lobbies of Congress. The mere suspicion that it was connected with political agencies



would paralyze its usefulness. There was reason to apprehend that a grant of money from Congress, if obtained at all, would be obtained on terms and conditions as to the appointment of agents and the application of funds, that would impair the efficiency of its operations. It was certain, moreover, that any appropriation that could reasonably be expected would fall far short of the amount required. To make up the deficiency, the Commission would therefore still be obliged to rely on the liberality of individuals. And it was thought probable that an appeal to the public for support would be wholly in vain were the Commission actually in receipt of any amount, however small, of funds derived from the public treasury.

On these and other grounds the Commission determined to rely for support on the community at large, and every indication up to the present time justifies it in taking that course.

The whole subject is commended to the consideration of those who have at heart the interests of the army and of the nation. Members of the Commission rely with entire confidence on the good sense, the patriotism, and the charitable instincts of their fellow-citizens for means to enable them to carry out the work they have undertaken.

NEW YORK, *August* 13, 1861.

On behalf of the Commission,

W. H. VAN BUREN, M. D.

ELISHA HARRIS, M. D.

CORN'S R. AGNEW, M. D.

GEO. T. STRONG, *Treasurer*.

## ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMISSION.

WASHINGTON, *August 13, 1861.*HENRY W. BELLOWES, *President, New York.*PROF. A. D. BACHE, *Vice President, Washington.*GEORGE T. STRONG, *Treasurer, New York.*FRED. LAW OL MSTED, *General Secretary, Washington.*GEORGE W. CULLUM, *U. S. Army.*ALEXANDER E. SHIRAS, *U. S. Army.*ROBERT C. WOOD, M. D., *U. S. Army.*WILLIAM H. VAN BUREN, M. D., *New York.*WOLCOTT GIBBS, M. D., *New York.*ELISHA HARRIS, M. D., *New York.*SAMUEL G. HOWE, M. D., *Boston.*CORNELIUS R. AGNEW, M. D., *New York.*J. S. NEWBERRY, M. D., *Cleveland.*HORACE BINNEY, Jun., *Philadelphia.*Rt. Rev. THOS. M. CLARK, *Providence, R. I.*